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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In light of President Obama's push for comprehensive immigration reform, do you support granting status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

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Isidoro T. Cabrera promotes hydroponics farming in the CNMI.

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### OFFBEAT



Stewie, the longest domestic cat in the world, has died.

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### LIFE & STYLE



A rare 148-year-old baseball card is sold for \$92,000.

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## CMMS decertification no longer threatens hospital



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), right, signs off on a special committee report recommending adoption of a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty, at past 4:30pm yesterday in the House chamber. Looking on are, from left, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and committee members Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), chairman Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

### FIRST REPORT OF ITS KIND IN NMI HISTORY

## Special panel to House: Impeach Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, a special committee report was pre-filed yesterday recommending that the full House of Representatives impeach the governor for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony, and move the process to the Senate for trial. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the first governor to be a subject of an introduced impeachment resolution, has been preparing a legal defense team.

By a vote of 5-0, the Special Investigating Committee on Impeachment adopted a 51-page committee report on House Resolution 18-2, which will be up for a full House vote on Monday at 9am.

See IMPEACH on Page 4

### Fitial prepares defense team

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has been preparing a defense team in connection with an impending impeachment trial at the Senate, once the House of Representatives successfully moves the process to the Senate. The governor, however, will not be represented by the Office of the Attorney General amid concerns of conflict

» AG recommends governor hire private counsels

of interest.

The full House will be voting on the impeachment resolution on Monday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the governor "will organize his defense and legal team once the impeachment moves up to the Senate."

As of yesterday, the administration has yet to name the private



Fitial

See DEFENSE on Page 4

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The threat of decertification by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services no longer looms for the Commonwealth Health Center, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta.



Babauta

The corporation received yesterday a notice from CMMS notifying local health officials that the 217-page Plans of Corrections recently submitted to the federal agency has been accepted.

Acceptance of the report means complete elimination of the threat of decertification for CHC, Babauta said.

The termination date for CMMS participation was supposed to be on Feb. 11, but because of Medicare's acceptance of the plan of

See CMMS on Page 4

## 9 dead, villages destroyed in Solomons tsunami

By KRISTEN GELINEAU  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—Aid workers struggled to reach remote, tsunami-ravaged villages in the Solomon Islands on Thursday, as the death toll rose with more bodies found in wrecked homes and debris in the South Pacific island chain.

At least nine people, including a child, were killed when a powerful earthquake set off a small tsunami that sent 1.5-meter (4 foot, 11-inch) waves roaring inland on Santa Cruz Island, in the eastern Solomons, on Wednesday. Around 100 homes across five villages were damaged or destroyed.

See TSUNAMI on Page 4



AP  
The destroyed Venga village following a Tsunami Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013, in Temotu province, Solomon Islands.

**Businesses lament slow response to federalization issues. PAGE 2**  
**CUC suspends application for net metering. PAGE 3**

# Local

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**Girl Talk**

## Businesses lament slow response to federalization issues

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter are lamenting federal agencies' slow response to concerns raised as early as 2011 related to the federalization of immigration, including whether the transition period will be extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014, and whether transitional Commonwealth-only workers could continue working while the renewal of their CW permit is pending.

and our Chamber member firms and all their employees are hard pressed to adjust to the lack of service needed and the very payroll the employees depend upon," they told the delegate.

The second major issue raised is the lack of response from U.S. Labor to the letters sent in 2012, asking a "definitive response" to the question whether the transition period for CW-1 permitting would be extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

Without the extension, the CNMI could lose access to some 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers, mostly from Asian countries such as the Philippines, China, and Korea.

"We can only wonder what businesses will need to prepare for or to run their businesses and provide for themselves and those they support," the business groups said.

The three business groups sought this week the help of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in addressing their concerns with federal administrative offices "that must administer to our businesses and lives."

These federal agencies include the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Sablan confirmed yesterday that he received the Chamber letter on Wednesday and that he will respond to it once he thoroughly reviews the concerns raised.

Of immediate concern to the business groups is for USCIS to allow CW permit holders to continue working while their application for permit renewal is still being processed by USCIS.

The three groups wrote to USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas on Dec. 20, 2012.

"We have not received any response from USCIS concerning our request for consideration," Chamber president Alex Sablan, HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, and SHRM chair Maria Luisa Ernest said in their three-page letter to Sablan.

They said communication from employers and employees under the CW-1 permit process increases every day as the initial permits granted have expired and the applications for renewal have yet to be issued.

"Hotels, small businesses,

"These three examples of what we are experiencing with the implementation of federal immigration and foreign labor law are just some examples of what we see as situations that can be remedied to all parties' benefit.

We cannot turn our backs on our own economic realities, and we must address the authority that dictates how we adjust to the new federal authority that administers the law we must follow," the business groups told the delegate.

(Haidee V. Eugenio)

# Jurors in Weindl case start deliberation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Shortly after closing arguments of both prosecution and defense counsels, jurors began deliberations yesterday afternoon in the trial of Thomas Weindl, a former school principal accused

## CUC suspends application for net metering

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher disclosed yesterday that the agency is temporarily suspending new applications for its net metering program due to the agency's current backlog on applications.

Fletcher said the suspension will remain in effect until all applications are processed and further grid stability analysis is completed.

According to Fletcher, the current project and applications now total 2.4 megawatts. This amount, coupled with the 4MW to 6MW that the utilities firm is currently negotiating, resulted in CUC achieving 30 percent penetration of its low peak load.

Fletcher said that current installations and pending applications for the popular net-metering program are not affected—only a new applications.

Fletcher explains that CUC's electrical power systems can only accept so much penetration from net-metering custom-

ers and CUC may have already hit the threshold for overall grid stability.

"We intend to take a careful look at the system using computerized modeling software to determine if there are control areas that can accept more solar penetration," he said yesterday, adding that it is important for consumers to know that halting new applications does not stop a home or business from installing solar panels for onsite generation.

Only the ability to interconnect to the CUC power grid for selling back power is affected, according to Fletcher.

Net metering is an electricity policy for consumers who own renewable energy facilities. Under the net metering program, a system owner receives retail credit for at least a portion of the electricity they generate.

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U.S. attorney Rami Badawy said the 135 websites that Weindl viewed or accessed on June 18, 2012, is enough to convict him of child pornography and access with intent to view child pornography.

Defense lawyer David Banes said the U.S. government's case against the 68-year-old Weindl is built on speculation and innuendo.

Badawy said the evidence showed that on June 18, 2012, the defendant "downloaded again and again" websites that contained child porn materials. Citing one of their exhibits, Badawy said they were able to confirm that the web-

site viewed by Weindl was consistent with the content of the E-blaster report.

E-blaster is a computer and Internet monitoring software program. Reports from the E-blaster program installed on the PSS netbook allegedly alerted FBI special agent Joe Auther to Weindl's online activity.

Citing another government exhibit, the prosecutor said that Weindl went to a website that contains a picture of a topless 11-year-old girl.

Badawy said that viewing child porn images is a crime of access with intent to view.

"If you have doubt, just look

at his conduct," said Badawy, citing that Weindl lied to the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents; he blamed somebody else; and tried to cover up his crimes.

Badawy said that Weindl lied when he told FBI special agent Auther that he turned over the computer to the Public School System, then later told FBI special agent Edmund H. Ewing that he could not find the computer. Badawy said that Weindl also admitted that he broke the computer and threw it into the jungle.

In the defense's closing ar-

guments, Banes said the FBI searched Weindl's office and computer but failed to find any child porn materials. No one could testify seeing Weindl viewing child porn, he added, and that no evidence shows him distributing or selling child porn.

He pointed out that Weindl indeed admitted viewing pornography but did not say child pornography. He said it is not against the law to Google pornography and that it is not against the law to view pornography. "It's human to have inappropriate curiosity," he added.



Weindl



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# GPPC makes available Saipan-made ship for Rota

GPPC Inc. has been doing infrastructure and CIP construction projects in Rota for many years. The company has always found shipping to be a challenge, as there were times when the regular shipping service cannot make any port call to Rota for several months. This is due to the hazardous condition of the channel leading into the Rota West Harbor main port, preventing ships from docking.

Constant cancellation of port calls prevent badly needed construction materials and equipments from being

brought into Rota. This in turn delayed GPPC's projects. For instance, there has been no shipping service to Rota for over the past two months. GPPC's ongoing Bird Sanctuary Road project has delayed due to the company's inability to ship materials and equipments to Rota.

These ongoing challenges lead GPPC to conclude that it needed a smaller vessel that can navigate and dock at the Rota East Harbor. Two years ago, GPPC proceeded with the design and construction of a landing craft style ship right here on Saipan, the MV *Jayden*.

"We believe this is the first time for such an undertaking in the CNMI, and recently made a trial voyage to Rota to bring much needed materials and equipments for our construction projects," the company said in a statement.

Due to the ongoing Rota shipping woes, GPPC has received many requests from Rota residents and businesses to offer commercial cargo service as well. As a result of the overwhelming requests, GPPC is planning to offer such services, in addition to supporting its projects.

The MV *Jayden*, a vessel made on Saipan, is 79 feet long and can carry approximately 70 tons of cargo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## DEFENSE

*From Page 1*

counselors being considered to form the governor's legal and defense team.

Some pro-impeachment House members told *Saipan Tribune* that if the governor is not preparing a legal team by now, the Filial administration must be confident enough that the Senate will not have at least six "affirmative" votes to convict him.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, in an interview with KSPN 2 yesterday, said the OAG will not be providing legal representation for the governor should there be an impeachment trial at the Senate.

## IMPEACH

*From Page 1*

One by one, special committee members led by chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) signed off on the panel report at around 4:30pm yesterday in the House chamber.

A report of a similar nature didn't get a chance to be completed and presented to the full House for a vote last year after the governor's allies in the 17th House voted down the impeachment resolution. Voters later almost wiped out the governor's candidates in the Nov. 6 elections, paving the way for mostly pro-impeachment candidates to win new House seats.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), one of the committee members, said, "It has been a pretty long journey since the 17th Legislature."

"But I'm happy to say that we now have a product to present to the full body, a product that was never given a chance during the last Legislature," Dela Cruz said as the special committee wrapped up its work yesterday.

Besides Sablan and Dela Cruz, the other committee members are Reps.

Instead, the AG recommends that the governor hire private counsel.

"There is determination of my office and the governor is aware of that. But of course he is free to hire private counsel and my recommendation would be that he hire private counsel but in answer to your question as to whether the Attorney General's Office mainly Civil Division will be representing the governor, the answer is 'no,'" San Nicolas told KSPN 2. San Nicolas has yet to respond to other media's questions.

The AG said the governor has discussed the matter of legal representation with the OAG.

"The governor of course has to prepare his defense and of course it would be reasonable for him to look to those

who represent him. I do represent the government and I provide counsel to the governor. But, yeah, he's inquired about it and our response has been that the Attorney General's Office will not be providing legal representation of the governor at the Senate for the impeachment matter," he told KSPN 2.

The governor-aligned, four-member House minority bloc is also preparing a position paper on the impeachment resolution.

San Nicolas said no one from the OAG works with any member of the Legislature about the impeachment.

Some individuals from OAG were involved in some of the allegations contained in the impeachment resolution.

review by all House members.

The report recommends adoption of House Resolution 18-2, House Draft 1. The impeachment resolution is co-sponsored by the speaker and 15 other members of the new House leadership.

The number of the resolution's co-sponsors is more than the minimum 14 "yes" votes in the 20-member House to move the impeachment process to the Senate.

The speaker said there is ample time to review the committee report, in time for Monday's session.

Among the impeachment allegations relate to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate in January 2010 to massage the governor at his home, signing of a no-bid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement and a no-bid almost \$400,000 ARRA management contract, helping a former attorney general avoid a penal summons related to criminal charges, and failure to appoint key officials for Senate consideration, among other things.

Fitial can be impeached in the House and convicted in the Senate on only one of the 18 articles of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), Edmund Vilagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Minority bloc members Reps. Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan) and Teresita Santos (R-Rota) withdrew from the committee but the four-member minority bloc said it will issue its own report on the impeachment resolution.

Dela Cruz said each House member will be able to review the special committee report and decide on the merit of each article.

Sablan and Dela Cruz separately thanked the committee members, the House staffers and counsels for their work, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), the general public "for their patience" as well as the media.

"When we started this, we were under tremendous pressure to conduct the hearing and get to this point," Sablan said.

The committee held its first official meeting on Jan. 24. They reviewed evidence, deliberated on each of the articles and voted on each of them, before drafting and finalizing their report.

Copies of the 51-page Special Committee Report 18-1 are now ready for

"We believe this will help the people of Rota alleviate some of their shipping problems. The details are still being worked out and we look

forward to the support and cooperation of the local authorities to bring this service to the people of Rota," the company said. (PR)

## Senate names members of impeachment panel

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) named the three other members of the Senate Special Committee on Impeachment led by Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

This came on the same day a House special panel on impeachment pre-filed yesterday its report and recommendation to the full House to move the process to the Senate for trial.

Torres, also the chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedural, said the special panel will meet today.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) is committee vice chairman, while Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) are members.

Torres said the committee, with the

The tsunami was generated by an 8.0-magnitude earthquake that struck near the town of Lata, on Santa Cruz in Temotu, the easternmost province in the Solomons.

Disaster officials were en route to the isolated area Thursday after the local airport, which was flooded by the tsunami, was finally cleared of debris.

The Solomons comprise more than 200 islands with a population of about 552,000 people. They lie on the "Ring of Fire"—an arc of earthquake and volcanic zones that stretches around the Pacific Rim and where about 90 percent of the world's quakes occur.

More than 50 people were killed and thousands lost their homes in April 2007 when a magnitude-8.1 quake hit the western Solomon Islands, sending waves crashing into coastal villages.

## CMMS

*From Page 1*

corrections, the clock for termination has stopped.

Babauta lauded corporation officials and employees for all the hard work they did to put together the critical response to the CMMS citations. He also expressed gratitude to the medical team from U.S. Health and Human Services who are on 90-day mission at CHC, the partnership shown by the Office of Insular Affairs and the Governor's Office, and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who recently sent her chief of staff Sally Howard to the CNMI, for demonstrating their concern for the public hospital. He said their assistance was key to addressing all deficiencies uncovered at the hospital.

It was earlier disclosed that the hospital would lose about \$22 million a year if CHC's condition of participation with CMMS is terminated. This amount covers \$12 million in yearly reimbursement from Medicare patients and \$10 million reimbursement from Medicaid clients in the Commonwealth.

According to Babauta, the CMMS' acceptance of the plan of corrections also means that the corporation is no longer required to submit a final report on Feb. 10.

However, a team from CMMS is expected anytime soon to do a complete survey of the hospital. Medicare's visit is always unannounced.

CHC was slapped with three immediate jeopardy statuses in September last year after the discovery of serious deficiencies at the hospital, in addition to other citations uncovered at the end of the survey visit.

With the team of medical experts from HHS about to exit next month, Babauta emphasized the importance of sustaining all positive changes at the hospital.

"Although CMMS had accepted our report, our challenge ahead is how we can sustain all this progress and that's what we're discussing with the HHS team and our partners. We want to follow all recommendations of the team so that we are in compliance with all the standards," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Three months after the CMMS visit, corporation officials say they have made great strides that will bring the island's lone public hospital to a more stable condition.

Among the improvements noted at CHC were the procurement of a state-of-the-art CT scan machines; 10 new defibrillators; procurement of a new dishwasher for dietary unit; upgrades in the medication rooms; and new boiler.

Also established is a governing body for the corporation; policies and procedures at various hospital units; hiring of more billers and coders; and key hospital personnel, among others.

The corporation took over the hospital's operation and two clinics in fiscal year 2011.

## Agriculturist touts his success in hydroponic farming



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera shows the Buttercup lettuce he harvested from his experimental hydroponic farm on Navy Hill yesterday morning. He is encouraging local farmers to use this technology of growing vegetables using water instead of soil, saying that it is "less costly" and "low maintenance."

**By CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera is promoting the use of hydroponics technology in the CNMI, describing it as "less costly" and "low maintenance."

Cabrera said yesterday that he has been hearing for years about hydroponics, a method of growing plants without soil by using mineral nutrient solutions, but never got into it until December 2012 when he began his experiment.

For an estimated \$125 budget, Cabrera said he was able to set up a hydroponic farm on Navy Hill. Early last month, he began cultivating his main crop—Buttercup lettuce—which is now ready for harvest.

Cabrera started off with the

germination of his lettuce seeds in a small pot for two weeks. The seedlings are then contained in the starter plug and tied with a rubber band before being placed in the actual hydroponic farm.

The farm works by having a 27-watt electric pump push rainwater or processed water from a small water tank up to the downspouts to nourish the roots of the seedlings before the water is pumped back to the tank. The water contains a water-soluble fertilizer rich in nitrogen and phosphorous to make the crops grow.

The success of Cabrera's little experiment encouraged the long-time farmer to expand his crops to include Salad Bowl and Romaine lettuce, Chinese cabbage, and even tomatoes.

"It's not really difficult to start your own hydroponic farm and I want to introduce this concept to other farmers. As an agriculturist, I want to transfer my knowledge; I don't keep things to myself," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Cabrera, hydroponic farming eliminates issues that farmers typically deal with when using the traditional method of planting crops on soil.

With hydroponics, farmers can do away with weeding and the produce gets more nutrients, Cabrera noted. The method, which is viable for both commercial and non-commercial farmers, also eliminates issues on bacteria, fungi, and nematodes, producing crops without blemishes and improving the taste of the produce.

Those who think they would incur a higher utility bill because of the use of electric pump need not worry, said Cabrera. His small plot consumes only about \$2 in electricity per month.

However, farmers who will venture into hydroponics will have to monitor the pH level of the water in the tank and to be cautious if they plan on using water coming from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., he said.

Cabrera plans to take his experiment to another level

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## NMC hires Education Department director, instructor

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday the appointment of Dr. Frank R. Trocki as the new director of its School of Education. He will be leading the management and instructional operations of the department, including working with faculty and staff on program and curriculum development and evaluation.

Trocki possesses a wealth of experience working with K-12 school districts, colleges, universities, corporations, local governments, and community groups.

Prior to joining NMC, Trocki worked as an education consultant for business development at Aspen University from 2011-2012. In that capacity, he was responsible for identifying and developing relations with American and foreign universities, major industrial and business corporations, and health care operations. He was also involved in new program market development, competitive analysis, strategic planning, curric-

ulum design, and other tasks.

Trocki also worked for Montana State University-Northern in Havre, Montana, as its chancellor from 2009-2011. He also worked in several other institutions of higher education in various capacities, including as a dean, chief academic officer, and professor.



Trocki



Maratita

Trocki earned his doctorate degree in communications technology education from West Virginia University, and his master's and bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

NMC also announced yesterday the hiring of Jennifer Furey Maratita as

instructor for the School of Education. Maratita earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Portland State University and her master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Pacific University in Portland Oregon. She is also a graduate of NMC.

Prior to joining the college, Maratita worked as a licensed mental health and certified addictions counselor as well as a professional development trainer in private practice. She has also served as clinical services manager for the Community Guidance Center and was responsible for program planning, organization, supervision, training, and counseling services.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., welcomed these newest additions to the college workforce.

"We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Trocki and Ms. Maratita join our School of Education team. Their extensive experience, impressive professional background, and passion for student success will be a great benefit to our students," she said.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Town hall meeting at Kagman

There will be a town hall meeting at the Kagman Community Center on Feb. 12, 2013, Tuesday, starting at 6pm. The new representatives of Precinct 5—Reps. Lorenzo "Larry" Deleon Guerrero and Antonio "Tony" R. Agulto—will meet and hear from Kagman residents. Everyone is invited. (PR)

#### Chacha Ocean View report cards out

This is to inform all parents and guardians that Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School's second quarter report card will be issued to students today, Feb. 8. For more information contact the main office at 237-3912 or 664-4100/3. (PR)

#### MHS to host parent literacy workshops

Marianas High School is inviting all of its students and parents to the first Partners in Print (Parent Literacy) Workshop. The first session is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the MHS Cafeteria from 5:30pm to 6:45pm. Come and enjoy Student-Parent-Teacher collaboration, door and raffle prizes, refreshments, and other great incentives. For more information, contact Bobby Cruz (237-3239) or Lorraine Catienza (237-3282). (PR)

#### Valentine's Walk on Feb. 9

The Marianas Health Annual Valentine's Walk will be held on Feb. 9, 2013. Free registration begins at 6am. The walk will start from the Carolinian Utt (next to Hafadai Beach Hotel) down the Beach Road Pathway. Turnaround for the 5K course is at the Japanese Tank, while the turnaround for the 10K course is at the Oleai Beach. Special T-shirt is available while the supplies last. For more information contact Bea Quitugua at 285-1694, Hiroko Tajima at 287-8780, or Hiroko Tenorio at 483-0614. (PR)

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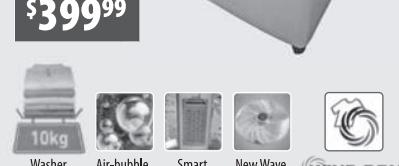
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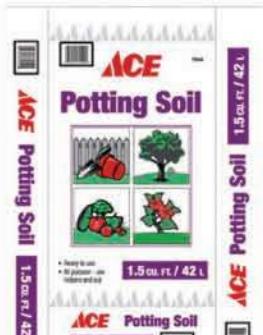
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# OAG sends Birnbrich to NYC conference

In order to better serve the government and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the chief of the Civil Division, Gil Birnbrich, will be attending a three-day conference titled the "2013 Charities Regulation and Oversight Policy Conference: The Future of State Charities Regulation and Enforcement."

The conference is being presented by the National Association of Attorney General Training & Research Institute and will be held in New York City, New York, at Columbia Law School from Feb. 6 to 8, 2013.

Many policy topics will be addressed, including state/state and state/federal relation-



San Nicolas

ships; structure and funding of state charities officials; the fundamental role of states in governance issues; challenges and interest of the states in social mission/hybrid corporate organizations; the role of states in nonprofit healthcare; charitable solicitation; jurisdiction over religious organizations; issues of advocacy and political activity and proposed regulatory structures.

The Office of the Attorney General obtained a scholarship from NAAGTRI to send its representative. This scholarship covers the cost of airfare, lodging, transportation, and per diem. As a result, the Office of the Attorney General will not be burdened with any cost associated with Birn-

brich's training.

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas stated that, "We are very happy to be able to send a representative from the CNMI to attend this conference. This furthers my and my predecessor's [former acting attorney general, now

deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo's] policy of training and upgrading the skills and knowledge of our office to better serve the people of the Commonwealth. This is an area of law that our office is unfamiliar with and it is important we become familiar with it."

Nicolas further stated that, "We are grateful that NAAGTRI provided our office with a scholarship for our representative to cover the costs of the training. NAAGTRI puts on highly educational and practical programs as recently experienced by our attorneys in Guam, and our representative will learn a lot that will be applicable in the CNMI." (*Office of the Governor*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

FEB. 8, 1999

### Law settles \$6.63M MIHA delinquency

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed a bill into law that would authorize the Commonwealth Development Authority to write off some \$6.63 million in unpaid loans accumulated by the defunct Marianas Islands Housing Authority. In effect, the law would allow the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, a CDA subsidiary created to replace MIHA, to secure financing package for its home loan program designed for low and moderate income families. The amount represents portion of the \$10 million in principal loan and interest payment due to CDA under an agreement entered into with MIHA on January 1987 for the construction of 150 housing units.

### PSS personnel nix service contract

The Public School System will need to launch an aggressive campaign to sell the professional services contracts among its personnel who at this early are not buying it. Based on the recent salary options survey made by PSS, majority of its employees are not letting go of their usual employment contracts. "Most of the people who responded wanted to stay as is, they don't want to give up," Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos told members of the Board of Education. According to Inos, employees wanted to continue to enjoy their health insurance and retirement benefits. "Those are the two factors that compete our attention," she added.

Feb. 8, 2001

### Fund hires in-house utilization reviewer

In compliance with the recommendations made by the Office of Public Auditor, the NMI Retirement Fund implements its utilization review program in hopes to prevent fraudulent health claims and overblown medical charges. Health and Life Insurance Program Manager Dolores Moore disclosed yesterday that papers of the newly-hired utilization review personnel is currently being processed. However, Ms. Moore refused to divulge the identity of the in-house review personnel pending the release of his official papers. She said the hiring of the in-house utilization review is due to the absence of funding assistance from the Legislature to assist them take the services of an off-island review board.

### Road paved for new Saipan thoroughfare

Stressing the need for an improved thoroughfare that would ease congestion of vehicular traffic on Saipan, the House of Representatives yesterday cleared the way for legislation that would establish a special implementing body for the proposed Texas Road. House members voted to pass House Bill 12-267, also known as the Texas Road Development Act of 2000, without too much deliberations during yesterday's session. The lower chamber of the CNMI Legislature earlier adopted recommendation to pass made by the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication, citing the bill's significance in providing Saipan residents better road access.

Feb. 8, 2002

### NMI gets \$13M in US grants

In the presence of his staff, special advisers and the media, Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed two grant documents that would give the CNMI a total of \$13 million in federal funds. Babauta said the two grants represent \$11 million in Capital Improvement Program funds for fiscal year 2001-2002 and \$2 million in Compact Impact payments. He said he received notification about the two grants last week from the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Babauta said that, after a thorough discussion of the matter with Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, they agreed to use the \$2 million Compact Impact funds to finish the construction of the Tinian High School and Tinian Junior High School.

### Lizama files \$16M suit against insurance firms

Juan T. Lizama slapped a \$16.2 million lawsuit against Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. for alleged failure to settle insurance obligations in connection with a car collision that occurred more than a decade ago. Lizama, who suffered severe injuries from that crash, claims he is an innocent third-party beneficiary under applicable insurance policies. The plaintiff, in a complaint filed at the Superior Court, said that when he sought payment for damages as a result of the accident, TMFI and PIU allegedly failed to investigate and settle his insurance claims.

## 5th Annual Walk to Remember in honor of "JP" John Pangelinan

On Saturday, February 23, 2013, Tan Holdings is once again sponsoring a three-mile walk and fund-raiser in honor of and in dedication to the memory of our former Tan Holdings executive, John "JP" Pangelinan. The walk also aims to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Registration is \$5 per person, unless you are an employee wherein the company will pay for your fee. The walk will start by the Beach Road Pavilion in front of JP Center. Refreshments, raffle prizes, and entertainment will be available at the Susupe Beach Park finish line.

Registration forms are available at the Saipan Tribune or may be requested from Becky Tenorio at becky\_tenorio@tanholdings.com or by calling 235-2440.

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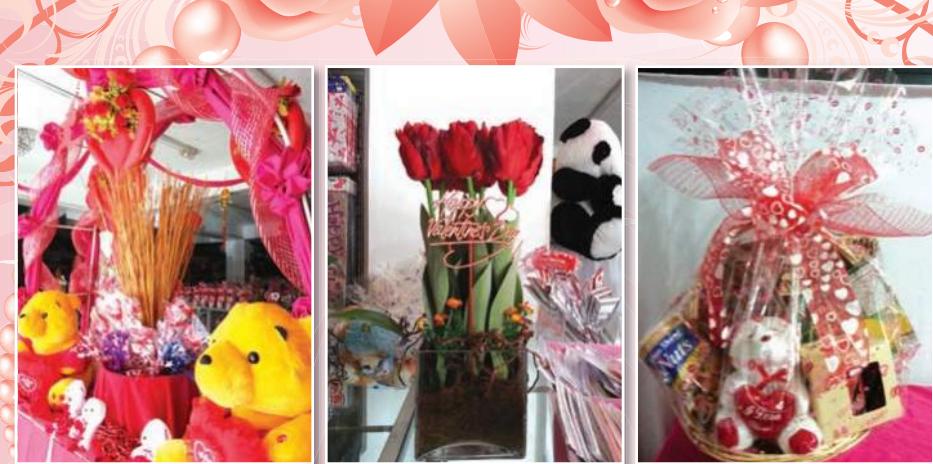
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# Opinion

*Hafa Adai!*

**Saipan Tribune**  
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MEMBER  
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## EDITORIAL

### Embrace the promise of immigration reform

**M**oral reasons? Check.  
Economic reasons? Check.  
Practical reasons? Check.  
These are just some of the reasons why political leaders in the United States need to enact immigration reform and stop dickering over the details.

That's not to say that there won't be complications to immigration reform, including strain on the governments and resources of border states where immigrant children go to school and families receive health care. Those can and should be addressed.

But xenophobia and punishment of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States are not legitimate reasons to oppose reform. On a practical level, the mind boggles at the 2010 estimate by the Center for American Progress of what it would cost to round up and deport an immigrant population that is roughly the size of the population of Ohio: \$288 billion.

Probably not a good way to reduce the deficit.

On the whole, immigrants who enter the country legally have proved to be an asset, especially when it comes to economic growth, business development and academic achievement in science, technology and engineering.

Columnist Ezra Klein wrote in The Washington Post on Thursday that about one-tenth of the people in the United States are foreign-born. But more than a quarter of U.S. technology and engineering businesses started in the decade that ended in 2005 had a foreign-born owner.

Half of all tech startups in Silicon Valley had a foreign-born founder; a quarter of the Nobel laureates based in the United States the past 50 years were born elsewhere; and about half of the doctorates now working in the science and technology fields were not born here.

Immigrants start businesses and file patents at a significantly higher rate than their U.S.-born counterparts and immigrants have been shown to lift wages overall.

Clearly there's a difference between a farm worker who enters the country illegally and young person who enters the country on a student visa and obtains a work card, and then citizenship. But if the nation embraced all immigrants willing to walk the path to citizenship, the benefits would be huge.

They would contribute to Social Security and Medicare, easing the economic challenge that the retiring baby boomer generation is putting on the systems. At the moment, there are five working Americans for every retiree. That number is expected to fall to three-to-one by 2050. Those numbers would be altered dramatically if immigrant workers were added to the rolls.

As grizzled GOP veteran Sen. John McCain of Arizona said: "We have been too content for too long to allow individuals to mow our lawns, serve our food, clean our homes and even watch our children, while not affording them any of the benefits that make our country so great."

The greatness that America embodies attracts the best citizens that foreign countries have to offer. Letting them share—and contribute—fully in America's bounty will lift us all.



### Making Iran laugh with US tough talk, no action

**W**estern sanctions are making life difficult in Iran, but at least the West does provide some comic relief to the beleaguered regime. They must be laughing.

The picture of the gray-faced Ahmadinejad cracking a smile, and the dour Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei shaking with laughter beneath his robe, came to me as I accidentally stumbled on a headline from 2006, "Annan: Iran Seriously Considering Nuclear Offer."

The story, as the title suggests, explains that the then-United Nations Secretary General was feeling optimistic. After meeting with the Islamic Republic's foreign minister, he thought Tehran was just about to agree to an "incentives package" offered by the Europeans, through their foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, to persuade Iran to stop enriching uranium. The prospects were looking good, apparently, but "no specific dates" were given for an official answer.

Those European officials are no longer waiting, because they no longer have their jobs. Also out of their job are Annan and even President Bush, who warned back then that he was starting to lose patience with Tehran.

Fast-forward to this week, and you can see why there must be much amusement in Iran's halls of power.

Vice President Joe Biden has just explained that "this window will not be open for an unlimited time." Hillary Clinton, on her way out the door as secretary of state, declared, "I don't think the window can remain open for too much longer." At least the two were on the same page on plans for the window, although the timing, as ever, remains unclear, as Clinton explained. "I'm not going to put days, weeks or months on it."

The Europeans, too, are struggling with the timing. Solana retired, but his successor, the EU's Catherine Ashton, said Tehran has not agreed to her latest groundbreaking proposal. The proposal this time was to meet before the end of January. That didn't happen. Now the mighty West hopes for Iranian agreement to meet in February. There's no answer at this writing. But the window is sure closing. It will surely shut by the end of February. That's when the March window might open.

U.N. nuclear officials say they are increasingly concerned about the possible military dimensions of Iranian nuclear activities particularly in locations where the regime is blocking access to inspectors.

Iran, in the meantime, is doing more than guffawing. In a letter to the U.N. nuclear agency, it reported it is installing much more sophisticated enrichment equipment, which will allow it to greatly

By FRIDA GHITIS  
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her e-mail at [fghitis@gmail.com](mailto:fghitis@gmail.com).



accelerate the process of developing highly-enriched uranium. Independent experts say this could be another game-changer.

The White House said—wait for it—this is "another provocation by Iran." You know those harsh words had Iranian leaders laughing in their boots.

The U.S., of course, is on record saying it will do whatever it takes—all options on the table, etc., etc.—to stop Iran's nukes. But there was some confusion about what exactly it is that Washington wants to stop. In his confirmation hearings for the top defense job, Chuck Hagel said he's committed to "containment," but later had to correct himself on the crucial point.

Containment would mean allowing Iran to have a nuclear weapon and then trying to make sure it doesn't use it. That's exactly the opposite of what the United States and Europe have said for more than a decade.

Speaking of a decade, it's now 10 years since the start of negotiations on the issue. Perhaps we should plan a way to mark the occasion.

While the West decides its next move, Iran is busy at home and abroad. A ship filled with Iranian weapons was seized in Yemen, and officials in Tehran have confirmed member of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, whose constitutionally mandated job is to spread the Iranian revolution, are in Syria, helping Bashar Assad fight in that country's civil war, with the help of Hezbollah, Iran's faithful ally in Lebanon.

To be sure, Western sanctions are taking a painful bite out of the Iranian economy. But, contrary to the impressions from Kofi Annan in 2006, and those of many since then, Tehran continues undeterred in its domestic and international machinations in the world's most dangerous and unstable region. It is no laughing matter.

The warnings from the West sound more stale every day. At least we know that window will close. We don't know exactly when, but at some point, either the program will stop, or Iran will have that nuclear arsenal the West vowed so solemnly to prevent it from developing.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## The illumination of self-learning

**H**ere's wisdom from a Banzai cliff memorial that you've surely seen: "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

That's not only inspirational wisdom, it's also very practical. It's worth applying to the economic situation. After all, many folks on Saipan, despite having years of work experience under their belts, are feeling mighty helpless these days. So I'm going to mention how self-learning can help light some candles.

I'm not offering any glamorous platitudes here, or any magic solutions. There are no magic solutions. And the practical things in life are seldom glamorous.

So let's just get on with it, shall we?

First of all, as for self-learning, I mean using part-time study to earn a credential or a marketable skill. This often entails ordering a course or other materials via the Web, sometimes from companies that specialize in such things.

This stuff doesn't always lead to a good job, or even a lousy one, but neither does sitting on the couch watching TV, or hunkering down and hoping that things will spontaneously get better.

One realm of self-learning is the world of professional credentials, often involving licensing courses (test preparation) for things such as financial services (selling stocks, bonds, insurance, etc.) and real estate (sales or brokerage). Not all such stuff will have direct applicability in Saipan's job market, but will instead be useful if you're looking for work stateside, or even in Guam.

In the categories I just mentioned, passing a licensing test, by the way, is not the same as actually being granted the license. But it's still a documented accomplishment that can attract the interest of employers. You do have to think a step ahead to en-

sure that whatever test you're preparing for can be taken on Saipan, or wherever you are, at a computer test center. The one time I did this on Saipan I was able to take the test at Northern Marianas College.

Here's a quick story: One of my friends got out of the military and she soon found herself trapped in a civilian office job that she didn't like. Many adventurous people don't like being confined to indoor spaces all day. She was looking for something, anything, to get her out of that office, so on a whim she went online and bought a real estate agent course. A few weeks later she took the written test.

She was hired by a brokerage soon thereafter, got her agent license, and as it turns out, she was a natural. This meshed with her active lifestyle, and she was always on the move going from one property to the next.

Here's another story: I knew a professor who decided he'd sell municipal bonds as a sideline. So he took a self-study course, which led to his bond broker's license, and soon he was cold-calling prospects to offer them municipal paper.

He didn't like this line of work; in fact, it drove him absolutely bonkers. So he soon quit, much to the derisive sneers of co-workers, some of whom were happy to see a professor knocked down a few notches. The verdict, in other words: epic fail!

Meanwhile, here's another realm that's never too obvious to mention, so I'll mention it: foreign language study.

The importance of this should be apparent to anyone on Saipan, and in particular to anyone who wants to participate in the rise of industrial Asia.

With the exception of tour guides and translators, I have not seen language skills on their own land anyone a job. On the other hand,

**By ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit [Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



combining a technical skill that's in high demand (engineering, financial analysis, mathematics, etc.) with language skills can be a great ticket.

In fact, that's not just a recent thing, nor is it limited to corporate jobs. I knew a few pilots who learned to speak Japanese in the 1990s, and this landed them jobs and clients in tourism venues.

The cruel trick of fate here is that the languages associated with Asia's strongest economies, such as Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, are also the hardest languages for Westerners to learn. This will tax the resolve of any student, self-learning or otherwise. Of the four people I know who started studying Mandarin Chinese a few years ago, all of them eventually gave up.

Well, there you have it, some examples of success, and of failure, in the learning game. It's not a guaranteed way out of jam, but, these days, if we're not constantly moving ahead, then we're probably falling behind.

Ah, there I go again, mixing my metaphors, using my penchant for motion to fuel a "move ahead" or "fall behind" gig when I really should be talking about candles and darkness. But on that note we've come full circle to where we started off to begin with, which is a tidy way to wind up a Friday.

## Import talent, but nurture local potential, too

By JERRY LARGE  
THE SEATTLE TIMES

**I**migration has never been an easy issue for the United States despite its touting itself as a nation of immigrants.

There are so many facets to any discussion on immigration, so many different impacts on different places and different individuals and businesses and groups that whatever is said or done will get under someone's skin. Universal agreement may not be possible, but sensible balance is.

Last week, a bipartisan group of senators offered a plan that overlapped the plan President Obama put forth on a number of questions. All of that togetherness is so rare that I'm not sure what to make of it.

The thing they mostly agreed on is important to the Seattle area, and that is an increase in the number of H-1B visas, a change that would allow high-tech companies to hire more foreign workers. Raising the ceiling on the number of H-1B visas is something Microsoft in particular has championed.

The argument is that there aren't nearly enough talented, home-

grown applicants to meet the need for skilled workers with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees.

I've known a few talented people with computer expertise who've suffered stretches of unemployment, so I have some empathy with people who say tech companies prefer hiring young talent from abroad to possibly more expensive, older workers here.

I'm certain that is sometimes the case, but it also seems true that there are more jobs than could be filled from within.

There have long been clogs in the pipeline to a STEM degree. I think most people would acknowledge that American K-12 schools don't have as many good science and math teachers as they need, and few have much in the way of computer-science courses.

Math curricula are subject to periodic warfare over teaching methods, disrupting learning. And it is still a struggle to make STEM education accessible to some groups of students, particularly girls and students who are black, Latino or Native American.

Ed Lazowska, Bill and Melinda Gates chair of computer science and engineering at the UW, told me that right now, our economy is creating great jobs and they are going to other people's kids.

The challenge here is for people to realize we've got to be preparing our citizens for these jobs.

Microsoft, in asking for more visas, said it pays foreign workers the same as American employees, something more than \$100,000 a year. The median wage in the United States as of 2010 was \$26,364, and the average wage \$47,046. In Washington the average wage for the same year was \$49,354, according to the state Office of Financial Management.

Last year, farmers in Central and Eastern Washington bemoaned a shortage of labor, but they were talking about finding people to cut asparagus for \$10 or \$11 an hour and jobs that would last maybe three months.

Immigration is far from one issue requiring one approach.

There are plenty of Americans who'd like to earn \$100,000 a year. Whatever the folks in Washington agree on should make it easier both to benefit from the value immigrants add and to develop the potential that already exists here.

Jerry Large is a columnist for The Seattle Times. Readers may send him email at [jlarge@seattletimes.com](mailto:jlarge@seattletimes.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Support of 5 percent bonus differential pay

It was such a commendable move for the Senate president to call upon identifying funding to cover payment for the 5 percent bonus differential pay to affected civil service workers under Public Law 10-76 as amended by Public Law 11-59. It has been years since anyone has brought this up for discussion and I gratefully thank Senate President Jude Hofschneider for taking such initiative to bring this matter to the attention of the Office of Personnel Management, Civil Service Commission and other members of the Legislature.

The payment of 5 percent bonus differential pay to civil service workers is very crucial at this time when our commodities are too expensive, unstable utility bills, suspension of medical referral, rising cost of air and ocean freight, and many others affecting our livelihood, especially on the island of Rota. I have observed that every time the Legislature enacted laws that involve payment of employees, it always ended up with either a lack of funds or other issues affecting its implementation. Public laws 7-31, 10-76, and 17-82 all crashed and never got to materialize in giving employees what they deserve.

Public Law 17-82 mandates the Retirement Fund to refund active members with their contributions. In the course of such distribution, there were obstacles that prevented the further release of such refund to active members. This is a disgraceful situation as we profoundly trusted in the beginning that such public law will guarantee the immediate distribution of refunds to active members. A commitment to fully distribute the refund in 90 day is already overdue and to amend Public Law 17-82 for another 30 days to 120 days will

probably bring active members up to the end of 2013 to receive their refund. I guarantee that once the resolution for amendment reaches the floor of the Legislature, there will be a lot of debates and floor amendments and it will eventually end up with delays.

A promise by members of the Legislature to unite and work together is good but how true is it, as we always see and hear confrontation among them instead of harmony that will lead us to economic

### The irony of it all

It is ironic and not very easy to fathom that the individual who coined the phrase "Better Times" will truly come back full circle to make it a reality, not through honest endeavors and truly noble foresight but because of his Gestapo-like approach and Cold War mentality, synonymous with the way the islands was gripped just a few months ago before the November election of 2012.

I say better times are coming because the people have spoken up—"the silent majority"—and said enough is enough and let's boot out the bums and let's invigorate again this place of ours, this island I call home. The people's mandate is a strong instigator for change, that's why we are blessed with fresh new faces that were swept into office to truly effectuate change in governance and to truly begin to let us feel good about ourselves and our islands, to really begin to believe that the phrase "better times" is really upon us.

prosperity and recovery. Time is of the essence for our leaders to take heed and do something for the betterment of our CNMI.

In closing, I wish Senate President Hofschneider the best of luck to successfully work forward with other members of the Legislature in finding ways and means to not only effectuate payment under Public Law 10-76, but to expeditiously work forward as well in addressing Public Law 18-82 and Public Law 7-31. The challenge is now in the hands of every leader in the CNMI. We trust that you can bring back the CNMI to a great tourism haven and prospect for investments.

**Rufo C. Maratita**  
*Sinapalo I, Rota*

Better times will truly be a reality if the people's mandate for change is not delineated by petty, backroom maneuvering by some people who have no qualms about sinking us deeper into depression.

I say this, better times are beginning to come to fruition and is almost within reach because the individual who coined it really did it his way, not by noble endeavor but with negative doings and martial law mentality. They call it karma: What you did to people negatively will come back to haunt you.

The brass ring is now within reach. On this note, I say let's rejoice, hold hands together and let's face the future head on, knowing that once the people's mandate has been carried out, we can safely say, "Yes, we are heading into better times." For once again, we hold our destiny in our hands and we can accomplish great things. *Biba*, "freedom of speech" now, without the fear of retaliation! God bless America!

**Ray Bermudes**  
*Chalan Kanoa, Saipan*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the daytime.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the daytime.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 34 ▼ 12
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 40
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 65
New York	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼ 33
Paris	Snow	▲ 41 ▼ 31
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 23
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 35
Salem	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 22 ▼ 13
Tokyo	Windy	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼ 32

## Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM	Today	4:30 AM	4:15 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM	Saturday	5:24 AM	5:16 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM	Sunday	6:14 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM	Monday	7:01 AM	7:13 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM	Tuesday	7:46 AM	8:07 PM

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#### ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### ■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### ■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### ■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### ■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### ■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

### DEPARTURES

#### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

#### ARRIVALS

#### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

#### ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

#### NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

#### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

#### SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

#### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3

#### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00





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# Wiseman stands pat: Buckingham can't seek court relief

## »Unless Buckingham renounces his status as fugitive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday stood by his previous orders denying former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham the right to seek any kind of court relief until he renounces his status as a fugitive.

Wiseman denied Buckingham's request for an extension of time to file a response to Wiseman's Aug. 17, 2012, order.

The CNMI government, through special prosecutor George L. Hasselback, opposed the extension request based on the judge's prior orders invoking the fugitive disentitlement doctrine.

The Aug. 17, 2012, order refers to Wiseman's granting of an

*ex parte* petition of the Office of the Public Auditor appointing OPA counsel Hasselback as special prosecutor in the criminal case against Buckingham. The judge unsealed the order only on Jan. 16, 2013.

In the Aug. 17 order, Wiseman ruled that the Office of the Attorney General is disqualified from prosecuting both Buckingham and his suspected co-conspirators.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman said he will not impose any sanctions at this time against Buckingham or his counsel, Brien Sers Nicholas.

The judge said the application of the fugitive disentitlement doctrine is a novel issue in the CNMI.

Wiseman said he also be-

lieves that Buckingham brought his motion based on a good faith belief that the fugitive disentitlement doctrine should not bar his request to challenge an order predating the court's announcement of his fugitive status.

Now that Buckingham knows of the court's interpretation of the fugitive disentitlement doctrine, Wiseman said the court shall consider sanctioning Buckingham's lawyer for any future requests for relief unless the former AG renounces his fugitive status prior to making the request.

Court documents show that Wiseman has consistently denied any relief sought by Buckingham while the former AG remains a fugitive of justice.

The CNMI Supreme Court af-

firmed on Dec. 5, 2012, that the doctrine applies to Buckingham.

On Jan. 14, 2013, Buckingham asked the court to schedule a status conference in the case. Again, Wiseman denied hearing the request since Buckingham remains outside of the court's jurisdiction. He warned Buckingham that "further use of the court's time and resources in filings that do not comport with these conditions shall not be tolerated."

In his order yesterday, Wiseman said that, despite the court's warning, Buckingham continues to seek relief while remaining a fugitive.

Buckingham, through Nicholas, argued that the fugitive disentitlement doctrine should not bar his most recent motion because he seeks to challenge an order predating the court's ap-

plication of the doctrine.

Wiseman, however, found no merit in Buckingham's argument. Wiseman said the critical factor in applying the fugitive disentitlement doctrine is Buckingham's continued refusal to answer the criminal charges.

The Office of Public Auditor filed criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham. An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on Aug. 4, 2012.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Wiseman issued an order declaring Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

## Jets roar as US, Japan, and Australia drill in Pacific

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM (AP)**—Fighter jets from the United States and key allies Japan and Australia are taking to the skies over the western Pacific in the combat phase of annual Cope North military exercises.

The drills—taking place around the U.S. territory of Guam—have gained importance in recent years as countries in the region respond to the rise of China and other potential threats.

They are aimed at preparing air forces of the U.S., Japan and Australia to fight together in a military crisis. They also remind Beijing that America's regional alliances are strong, though officers leading the maneuvers say they are not looking to bait the Chinese military.

U.S. officials say they believe more allies, particularly New Zealand and the Philippines, will join the exercises soon.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Happy birthday greetings go out to a wonderful kid, Ivan Angelo Sitchon, who is turning 10 years old today, Feb. 8. Mom and Dad wish you more energetic years to come. God bless you always. With love, from Pops, Mom, and the rest of the family!



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Happy birthday greetings go out to our Dad, Juanito C. Montano, who is celebrating his 69th birthday today, Feb. 8, 2013. Greetings coming from your loving family.

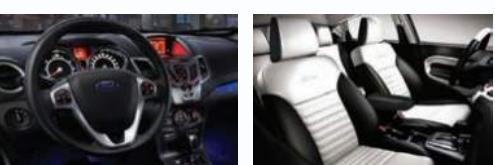
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Quest SV	C90462	SOLD	Silver \$4,000.00	Fiesta SE	CM22170	SOLD	Blue \$3,000.00
Altima Coupe	BC100556	Black	\$4,000.00	Ranger XL	BPA9270	SOLD	Silver \$4,000.00
HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	Ranger XL	BPA9270	SOLD	Silver \$4,000.00
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Civic LX	CE0059	SOLD	Beige \$2,800.00	Ranger Sport	BPA99588	White	\$4,000.00
Civic EX	CE005271	Black	\$3,000.00	Ranger Sport	BPA5260	SOLD	Silver \$4,000.00
Accord LX	CA007985	Blue	\$3,500.00				

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# Kilili continues the fight for submerged lands

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has again introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives conveying ownership of the lands and water surrounding each of the 14 islands in the Northern Marianas to the people of the Commonwealth. This is the third time Sablan has authored legislation for this purpose. In the 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Congresses his bills passed the House without dissent, 419-0 and 397-0 respectively. But both times the legislation died in the Senate.



Sablan

The House has voted twice. The [Obama] administration has testified in support. We have had sponsorship from both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate.

"I can't predict the future. But I am hopeful about the prospects for passage in this Congress."

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, after passing the House of Representatives, Sablan's

bill received a favorable report from the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and was included in a larger lands bill, America's Great Outdoors act of 2010, assembled by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada). But the Senate failed to act on the measure.

In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress Sablan's proposal again passed the House. In addition, then Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico) and Ranking

Member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) introduced a companion bill, S. 590, at Sablan's request, which received a favorable hearing. But, again, the Senate failed to act before adjournment.

"One lesson I have learned from veteran Members of Con-

gress is that success requires persistence," said Sablan. "And I certainly will keep pushing this legislation until we get the same ownership and management authority for the waters and lands around our islands as every other U.S. coastal jurisdiction has."

In 1999 the Commonwealth government filed a court action under the Quiet Title Act to clarify ownership of the submerged lands around the islands. In 2003 the Federal District Court for the Northern Marianas held that the Commonwealth did not

have title to the lands. That decision was upheld in 2005 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In 2006 the U.S. Supreme Court declined to reconsider the lower courts' decisions, leaving ownership effectively with the U.S. government. (PR)

"I have already met with the new chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ron Wyden of Oregon," Sablan reports. "The bill will come to his committee and will need his support."

"I explained that this is a noncontroversial, no-cost bill that has already received ample review in previous congresses."

## Red Cross, Transpac group tie up for 2013 ARC Walkathon

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross announced yesterday that the Transpac group of companies will again be a premier sponsor for this year's Walkathon.

"We are grateful and pleased that the Coke-Subway-Foremost-Scoops-Glimpses group of companies will be supporting the Red Cross event," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter. "Transpac has a long track record of helping our community, particularly with events focused on fitness."

This year's walkathon will take place on Saipan, Rota, and Timian on April 13. In addition

to the 10K the event there will be 5K and Headstart 2K course for the younger children. A \$15 donation to the Red Cross provides entry to the walk, an event T-shirt and refreshments from Coke-Foremost and Subway.

The Red Cross walkathon is the largest walking event in Micronesia with more than 2,500 participants. Prizes will be given out to schools with the most number of walkers and to those individuals and schools that raise the most funds.

For more information about the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Walkathon or how to volunteer, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

## Man in sex crime gets 18-month term

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday the maximum sentence of 18 months in prison on a man who committed a sexual crime involving a minor.

Although Michael Mukawa Manas is not a repeat offender and this is his first criminal conviction, Camacho said the case involves a sexual crime and the court finds it appropriate to sentence him to the maximum sentence of both charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

The judge ordered 20-year-old Manas to serve the 18-month sentence day for day, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, weekend release, or any other similar program. Manas was given credit for 16 days time served.

After the hearing yesterday, Camacho ordered the court marshals to take Manas into custody and transport him to the Department of Corrections to immediately start serving the sentence.

After completing his sen-

tence, Manas will be placed on one-year probation. He was required to immediately register as a sex offender and be subjected to random alcohol and/or drug screenings throughout the duration of his probation.

Manas was also ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine, \$25 court costs, plus probation fees. He was required to perform 200 hours of community service.

Manas and his counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Jacinta M. Kaipat.

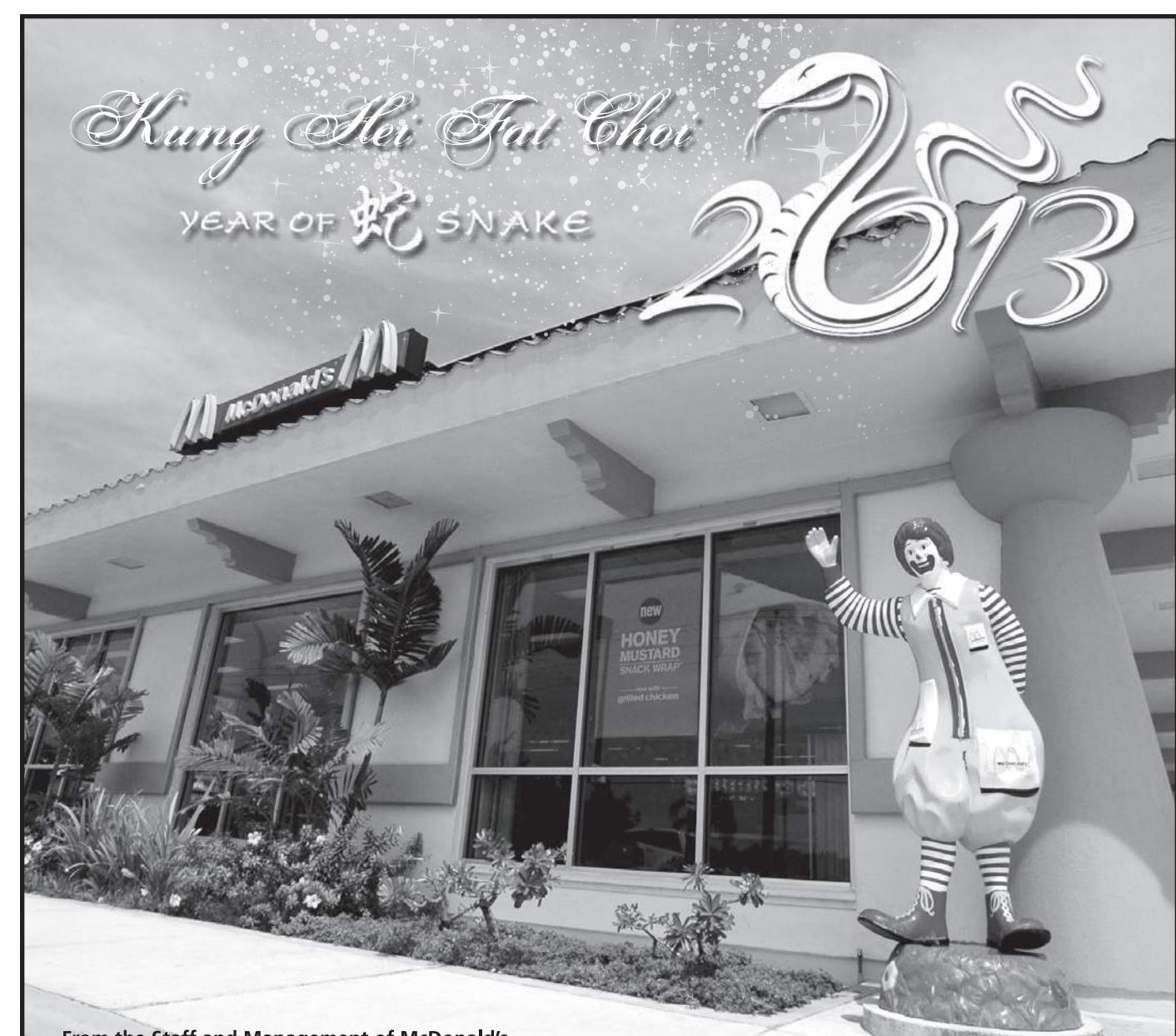
The defendant pleaded guilty to assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on or about February 2012 on Saipan, Manas engaged in sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl by touching her breast through her blouse.

Camacho is known for imposing maximum sentences and rejecting lenient plea agreements. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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# QC application for proposed resort hotel faces opposition

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

At least two businesses on island are strongly opposed to a qualifying certificate application for a planned resort hotel in Chalan Kanoa as the Commonwealth Development Authority, which manages the QC program, weighs the tax break request.

Representatives of the two businesses noted that they are not opposed to the Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club project to be built at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia and the Silver Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

They criticized, however, project developer Saipan Surfrider, LLC's request for abatement on their business gross revenue, excise, bar, and developer taxes for 25 years.

Norman Tenorio, president and chief executive officer of Pacifica Insurance, an affiliate company of Joeten Enterprises, and KKMP's Gary Sword voiced their sentiments on Wednesday during the public comment section of the CDA board meeting, saying the government needs all the revenues it can generate to improve the island economy and enhance services to the public.

The project had its share of supporters at the meeting, many of them saying that the planned venture will benefit other service businesses and will have a multiplier effect on the community.

Saipan Surfrider, LLC executives made a presentation on the planned \$12.1-million resort hotel, touting the economic

benefits of the project. Triple J Enterprises, which has a portfolio of businesses in the CNMI, is presently the lone shareholder of the project developer.

The presentation was similar to what the developer conducted on Dec. 27, 2012, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center when project details were initially revealed. At the time, businessman Gene Eagle Oden also expressed opposition to the QC application.

If the application is approved, Tenorio warned that the cash-strapped government stands to lose roughly \$500,000 worth of taxes, which he described as a "very alarming" sum of money.

Saipan Surfrider's Michael Sablan, a former public auditor, argued that Tenorio's calculation and numbers are flawed. "What are you losing when

you're not receiving any tax? As it is today, and for the last six years, there is no tax," Sablan said, referring to the defunct Pacific Gardenia and Silver Hotel properties.

Tenorio said he has nothing against the project but emphasized that Saipan Surfrider "should have corporate responsibility" and pay its share of taxes to the local government.

"None of our companies have even requested for QC. It's so embarrassing for us to request for a QC. Why? Because we want to support this community, this government. This is home. This is home for each and every one of us," he added.

Tenorio also questioned the QC application when the proposed development is anchored in the EB-5 visa program of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which seeks to attract foreign investors who can obtain permanent resident status for a required minimum amount of investment.

Retired lawmaker Diego T. Benavente, one of the authors of the law that ratified the QC program, said he does not see the proposed project as intended for the QC program, saying it would instead generate more criticisms.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said that the Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club will produce direct and spinoff jobs, bring in more businesses to existing vendors, and increase the purchasing power of island residents.

"It is an 'anchor opportunity' for the Chalan Kanoa village and its people," he added.

Sword, for his part, said his stance is only to ask for "what's fair" for a small community that has limited resources to provide needed public and social services. A tax exemption, he added, would place the burden on the upkeep of the island's facilities and infrastructure on small companies like his, which struggle to pay their taxes.

Ivan Quichocho of Tan Holdings said the Northern Marianas is missing out on opportunities for significant growth with its lack of hotel rooms—a "good problem" to have as it indicates the islands' growing tourism industry.

With the anticipated additional Beijing and Russia charter flights this year, Quichocho cautioned that the CNMI will "choke" again if there would be no rooms that will be built to accommodate the additional tourists.

The proposed resort will feature 60 rooms, a main restaurant, a Korean BBQ restaurant, a Japanese noodle house, a beach club, a modern health spa, and space rentals for shops.

Triple J founder Bob Jones, for his part, maintained that he does "not understand the economics of holding economics back" since there is an interested party who wants to transform an "eyesore" into an operating hotel that would add on to the room inventory of the Commonwealth.

"There's not enough investors coming in to the islands. When was the last time a hotel was built?" he asked. "We need to give more incentives. The idea of a QC is the reason that hotels were built in Saipan and Guam."

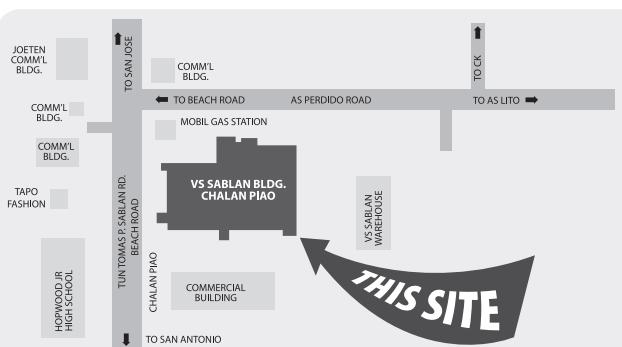
The CDA board discussed the application in Wednesday's executive session, which was also attended by Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

CDA executive director Manuel A. Sablan, in an interview yesterday, said that the executive session served as an avenue for the board and Larson to discuss further Saipan Surfrider LLC's request for a QC.

Sablan noted that all comments received by the agency will be taken into account when they make a recommendation on the application.

"We have to wait until all information gets in, then what we're going to do is put together a recommendation to the board, taking into consideration all the comments," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "The most critical thing also is the recommendation from the Tax Office."

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# 2013 Lunar New Year

## Year of the Snake promises calmer stock markets

**HONG KONG** (AP)—As the Great Depression in 1929. Stock markets have often ended lower in recent snake years.

However, in 2013 there is “good balance on the five fundamental elements,” fire, water, earth, metal and wood, which should rein in any significant upheaval, said Kou, whose official title at CLSA is research associate.

The brokerage’s predictions, focused mostly on Hong Kong’s stock market, are strictly tongue in cheek but feng shui, which translates as “wind water”, is followed religiously by many investors in the southern Chinese city in the belief that it will help boost wealth.

Emily Lam, another “sorcerer’s apprentice” who in real life is an institutional salesperson, outlined the industries that would benefit in the year of the “black water snake.”

“As the water snake enters the picture, she brings along a lot of water on heavenly stems. This will counteract with the earthly branches, favoring transport, logistics, shipping, gambling, tourism and infrastructure.”

“The snake is a skin shedder. That signifies radical changes,” said Mariana Kou, CLSA’s “sorcerer’s apprentice.”

The report noted that previous snake years have been associated with major turmoil such as the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the brutal government crackdown on protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989 and the start of



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# Lunar New Year traditions you might not have known about

By REBECCA W. LEE  
NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY

**T**here are many ethnicities that celebrate the Lunar New Year, not just the Chinese and Vietnamese. Koreans, Tibetans, and Mongolians also celebrate the New Year, which is the passing of the winter season and the beginning of the spring season. Each of these groups has different customs and traditions that have been practiced for hundreds of years.

## KOREA

Seol-nal or Eum-ryeok Seollal is the name for the Korean New Year. Koreans often celebrate two New Years, one based on the Gregorian calendar and one

on the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice. Seol-nal lasts three days and is considered the most important holiday of the year.

**Greeting:** Children go up to their elders and perform a traditional bow and say "saehae bok man-hi ba-deu saeyo," which means they hope for their elders to receive many blessings in the New Year. Children are allowed only one deep bow. Bowing more than once is usually for the dead.

**Money:** As do Chinese and Vietnamese, Korean elders give children money. This is to wish them luck and wisdom for the coming year. The money has to be very crisp.

**Clothing:** Koreans dress up in a hanbok, which is a traditional dress. It has vibrant colors

and simple lines without pockets. The colors on a hanbok can represent the social class of the individual wearing it.

**Food:** Tteokguk is a traditional dish consisting of broth and thinly-sliced rice cakes. It is believed to grant luck for the coming year and for people to gain an additional year of life. It is usually eaten with cooked eggs, marinated meat, and gim, which is similar to nori (seaweed).

**Travel:** Many Koreans head toward the east coast provinces to see the first rays of sunlight for the New Year. It is believed that the mind and spirit will be refreshed by watching the sunrise.

## TIBET

Losar is the Tibetan New Year.

The Tibetan word is made up of lo, which is 'year,' and sar, which stands for 'new' or 'fresh.' Losar is the most important holiday in Tibet. Losar lasts for about two weeks. The last three days comprise the main celebration. This holiday is celebrated in Nepal and India as well.

**Food:** Tibetans eat a special dumpling soup called guthuk. Nine is a number of good fortune, so everything in the soup has to be in nines, including the ingredients and bowls. Dumplings are given out with hidden ingredients inside, such as chilies, salt, wood, wool, rice, and coal. People find out what their New Year fortune is by checking what hidden ingredients they receive.

White is considered to be good luck at this time. If a per-

son receives a white-colored ingredient, he or she will be in good standing for the year. A piece of coal signifies that one has a 'black heart' or is malicious. Chili means that a person is talkative or rough-spoken. Wool means a person is lazy.

**Ceremony/offering:** Much incense offered to satisfy local spirits, deities, and protectors. It is believed that these offerings will bless the family for the year.

**Protection:** The night before Losar, family members finish their meal and dump what is left in their bowls into a wok, as well as some fingernails, old clothing, and garbage. Then, late at night, they take the wok out into the middle of the road. This is called a lue. This is performed to get rid of all evil forces at the start of a New Year.

## MONGOLIA

Tsagaan Sar is the Mongolian New Year. Although the Mongolian New Year follows the same calendar as that of all the other countries that celebrate the Lunar New Year, the cultural traditions follow more closely those of the Tibetan New Year. The Mongolian New Year, also known as the White Moon holiday, is celebrated two months after the first new moon.

**Greeting:** On the day of the New Year, children honor their senior relatives. The younger generation greets the elders by extending their arms with the palms up and supporting the elder's arms from underneath. They then kiss twice, once on each cheek.

A cup of milk is placed in the right hand on blue silk, which is called khadag. This is passed around to everyone. Gifts are also exchanged.

**Food:** Since this holiday is also called the white month, foods that are white, such as rice, dumplings, and dairy products, are seen as spiritually clean. A traditional food is ul boov, a traditional Mongolian biscuit layered on a big plate. The number of layers have to be odd and is determined by age. Grandparents get seven layers, parents get five, and younger couples get three.

## VIETNAM

Tet Nguyen Dan, or Vietnamese Lunar New Year, is the most important and popular holiday in Vietnam. It marks the arrival of spring. Tet is officially celebrated for three days, but festivities can continue for weeks.

**Lion dances:** In Vietnamese culture, lion dancers are considered mythical creatures. The dance includes extra performers, each one called ong dia, or 'Earth god.' They lead the lions in the performance to ward off evil spirits.

**Money:** Just like the Chinese, the Vietnamese hand out red envelopes. Parents, family, and friends who are married give

money to unmarried people. The money envelopes symbolize future blessing for those who are unmarried. The amount of money is always an even number, as odd amounts are given out for funerals.

**Gambling:** Gambling is very common, and it represents wealth, fortune, and leisurely spending. It is a projection of what the rest of the year will be like financially. The most popular games include a dice game called bau ca ca cop.

**Ancestor veneration:** In Vietnamese culture, veneration involves preparing food, gathering the family members, and going to temple to commune with ancestors.

## CHINA

The Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. This establishes the beginning of the season. At the end of the celebration is the beginning of the Lantern Festival. The celebration lasts 15 days.

**Cleaning:** Houses need to be clean the day before the New Year's day. On New Year's eve, all cleaning materials should be put away. No cleaning should be done on New Year's day for fear of sweeping away all the good fortune. The day after New Year's, individuals start at the door and sweep or vacuum toward the middle of the room. The rubbish is put in the corner of the room and is not taken out until the fifth day. Also, all dirt and trash should be taken out the back door.

**Fireworks:** The Chinese, just like the Vietnamese, use firecrackers to fight away evil spirits. In Chinese legend, the practice started with the fight against Nian, a mystical beast that would come out on the first day of the New Year and destroy all crops, livestock, and villagers. The villagers decided that they would fight back with firecrackers, brightly colored clothing, and lion dancers with their gongs.

**Food:** The amount of food is important during the Chinese New Year. The tradition involves having six, eight, or nine dishes on the table. People stay away from the number four or anything less than six dishes. Food commonly eaten includes fish, which represents surplus for the year. A whole chicken represents prosperity. Dumplings, or jiao zi, represent gold ingots. Jai, stir-fried vegetables, eaten on New Year's eve represents good fortune.

**Colors:** Legend has it that the Nian monster would be repelled by children wearing bright red clothing. It is believed that everyone should wear new red clothes to bring protection and luck for the upcoming year. White is never worn during the Chinese New Year's celebration because it represents mourning, bad health, and misfortune. ([www.nwasianweekly.com](http://www.nwasianweekly.com))

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**Wishing you.....  
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peace and joy  
in the  
year of the Snake!**

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# Ride the calmer waters of 2013 with ease

Expect an exciting year, not necessarily for the faint of heart! The Year of the Water Snake begins Feb. 10, 2013 and ends Jan. 30, 2014. Be bolder and more open-minded as this year unfolds!

Do your best to get organized as the year begins. Setbacks, delays, and a need for some do-overs can challenge everyone's patience and resolve. In a Snake

year, jealousy and keeping secrets works against everyone's best interests. A big lesson for all is to have the courage to face difficult emotional truths and still be true to what your heart tells you.

The April 25 Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse is a crossroads time, especially for strong-willed Dragons and their best friends, crafty Rat and inventive Monkey. As the doers of the Chinese Zodiac,

this is your opportunity to set specific and ambitious goals.

May is the most powerful month for Snake natives in a year that magnifies all their qualities, good and bad. Snake energy makes everyone feel a bit more suspicious. The May 9 New Moon/Solar Eclipse is a powerful time for a fresh start, especially for the most determined signs: ambitious Snake, practical Ox,

and confident Rooster. Don't be afraid to say what you think!

In a year where standard ways of doing things may no longer serve the common good, it's vital for everyone to keep a cool head. Frustration can lead to actions you will later regret. It's especially important to avoid making impulsive romantic commitments to someone you don't know well. Keep

your sense of humor and refuse to surrender your dreams.

Everyone will experience an easier flow of energy beginning mid-July. It's a great time to bring people together for fun. Old hurts can be surrendered. Expect better days financially and a sense of hopefulness to gradually return.

The October 18 Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse brings good luck to the humanitarian signs of loyal Dog, exuberant Tiger, and adventurous Horse. This is the

time to make social contacts to hopefully then open doors of opportunity. Share the things that make you happiest.

As the year winds down, more and more people will think about how make life simpler and more functional. A powerful November 3 New Moon/Total Solar Eclipse can sweep out the old and bring in the new. It will especially impact the most sensitive, sensual, peace loving signs: good-hearted Pig, artistic Goat, and diplomatic Rabbit. ([www.horoscope.com](http://www.horoscope.com))

## What's ahead for you in this Year of the Snake

By MICHAEL HANNA  
[HTTP://WWW.FENGSHUIWEB.CO.UK](http://WWW.FENGSHUIWEB.CO.UK)

### RAT

The Rats luck should turn out to be another good year throughout 2013 although there will be a few ups and down but following this advice can help make the year a smooth one. With regards to career and business the year will be interesting and new opportunities can come your way and there is also a good chance of promotion throughout the year; try not to take a relaxed approach to your work though as you still have to work for the benefits.

Rats that are looking for employment in 2013 may find that their luck is taking a turn for the better as long as they are determined and are happy to approach their future employers.

The Rat will need to take care of their health in 2013 especially those who like a tipple, smoke or do not have a good diet or lack in any exercise.

### OX

2013 is to be a year of progress and fresh start for the Ox with much advancement in the workplace and with relationships in 2013. Oxen actually do really well in Snake years and with

regards to employment, there will be many Oxen that will find they are progressing well in 2013 and there is a great chance of advancement in your role in your workplace this year. 2013 is a great year for the Ox to learn new skills, especially young Oxen born in 1997; this will end as a very valuable investment in yourself.

Money luck will be good for the Ox in 2013 and this year will be a good year to use your finances on your hobbies if you are able to do so but please be sure to avoid impulse purchases as with 2012 you will still need to be careful to save for bills and commitments and of course, the great social year ahead of you! The Ox will find themselves climbing the social ladder this year, especially with work related events and new friend groups.

### TIGER

Tigers should start 2013 with a steady approach and not jump in to any big projects or expenses. The Snake year can slow down the Tigers progression during 2013 but you should not let this put you off as this year can still be very rewarding if you know what to expect and plan the year ahead. In the workplace, this

year is a very good time to spend time learning new skills and take on new projects as 2013 is a perfect year to set the foundations for the upcoming years as this will work to your advantage later in the year or during the early months of 2014.

Tigers need to take a lot of time with family and friends in 2013 as their social calendar should be

very promising although there is a risk of personality clashes this year so you will need to be prepared to keep the peace when needed during the year.

### RABBIT

I bet there are a few Rabbits glad to see the back of 2012 and the good news is 2013 will be a much better year for the Rabbit and can

be a fantastic year to advance in a lot of aspects in your life whether finances, health, relationships. 2013 is a good year for the Rabbit in the workplace with the possibility of your employer putting a lot more trust in you; there is also a lot of luck on your side should you wish to change careers. If you are looking to advance at work, March, May, June and Novem-

ber are the best months to go for a new position.

2013 is a great year for new opportunities for the Rabbit but make sure you keep your eyes open to spot the opportunities and follow this advice carefully and worth checking back each month to see what changes you can make month by month.

**See WHAT'S on Page 20**



# GONG XI FA CAI!

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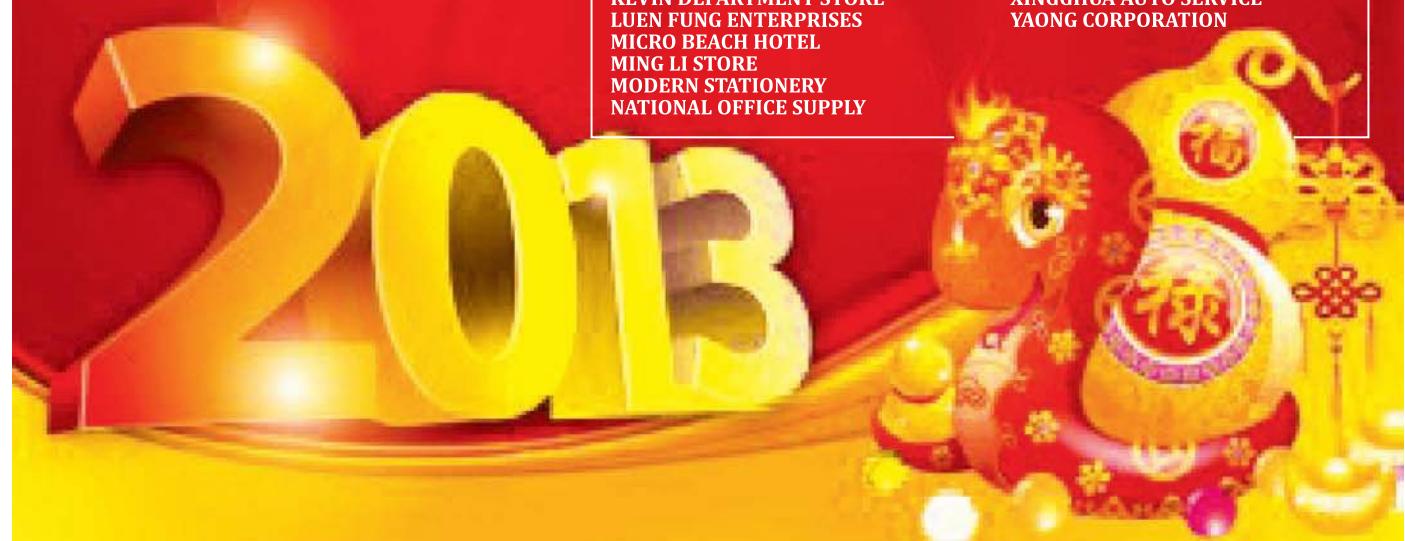
### Lion Dance Schedule

**Sunday, February 10, 2013**

10:00 am	Kanoa Resort Saipan
11:00 am	Hyatt Regency Saipan
12:00 pm	NIC Health
12:15 pm	Canton Restaurant
4:00 pm	Dollar Days
5:30 pm	Fiesta Resort & Spa
6:30 pm	Louis Vuitton (DFS)
7:30 pm	Star Sands Plaza
8:00 pm	Duty Free Galleria

**Monday, February 11, 2013**

10:00 am	TSL Plaza
3:00 pm	Subway (Gualo Rai)



NOAA announces public hearings to be held for the proposed rule to list 66 coral species as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the date and time provided:

Guam Hilton, Hagatna  
202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913  
February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Multipurpose Room on Beach Road, Susupe Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950  
February 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Fleming Hotel, Tinian  
P.O. Box 68 Tinian, MP 96952  
February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Mayor's Office, Rota  
Tatachog Road, Rota, CNMI 96951  
February 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Each hearing will include an initial town hall style meeting for the public to review materials and ask questions, followed by a formal hearing to submit public testimony. The full text of the proposed rule and supplemental documents can be found at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or at [www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd\\_coral.html#supplemental\\_docs](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html#supplemental_docs)

For a full schedule of the public hearings please visit:  
[www.fpir.noaa.gov](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov)

**WHAT'S**

From Page 19

**DRAGON**

The Dragon has a good year to look forward to in 2013 which is a nice way to follow on from last year. If you are keen to do well this year and set plans to stone fairly early in the year, then you can get a great deal accomplished in 2013. As with 2012 there will be plenty of prospects for the Dragon.

There will possibly be doors opening that you thought had closed a long time ago, the most important thing to remember is to spot a good opportunity when it comes and do not overlook the small print of any offer. With regards to scandals or gossip, this could be someone very close to you causing it, so please keep an ear to the ground and if you do discover who it is then leave it a few days before you approach them. This will allow you to

**HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR ANIMAL SIGN**

To discover your animal sign, simply find your year of birth. the corresponding animal for that row (written on left) is your animal sign.

RAT	1912	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008
OX	1913	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009
TIGER	1914	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010
RABBIT	1915	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011
DRAGON	1916	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012
SNAKE	1917	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013
HORSE	1918	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014
SHEEP	1919	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015
MONKEY	1920	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016
ROOSTER	1921	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017
DOG	1922	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018
PIG	1923	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019

have a clear mind and not say things you may regret later.

**SNAKE**

The Snake should start the year off with a fresh beginning and would really benefit from forgetting any problems that may have occurred during 2012 and forgive people for their wrong

doings; 2013 will be a great year for the Snake and should be started with a fresh, positive attitude! A lot can be achieved by the Snake this year in all aspects of life. There are plenty of opportunities for success in the workplace during 2013 with your efforts being recognised for their input and hard work.

If you feel as though you have been stuck in the same job for too long, 2013 is a good year to move to different departments and even jobs but please be sure that the move is what you want. 2013 is a good year for Snakes to become self-employed, especially if you do so during the months of March, June, July and September.

**HORSE**

2013 is very similar to last year for the Horse and will be a year of some ups and downs and I would advise all Horses to be careful throughout 2013 although with all the downs, there are a lot of upsides to 2013 for the Horse.

Horses that have recently changed jobs or are in the process of doing so will benefit from 2013 by becoming quickly settled in their new environment; this also applies to schools. If you are trying to advance in the workplace, you should do so with a calm pace and should not rush in to anything. Horses looking for work or wishing to change their profession should try to do so early on in the year as there will be a lot of competition this year although the Horse is a very strong willed character.

**GOAT**

This will turn out to be one of the best years for the Goat. Opportunities and success await you and seeds you planted in 2012 will now come to fruition. Coupled with Goats natural passion and drive, the year 2013 will take you to great heights and as with 2012 a great year to accumulate new wealth and also increase your circle of friends. Those in employment may see promotion, provided they keep away from and are not influenced by inauspicious sectors of the house according to the flying stars system of Feng Shui.

Whilst luck is with you, take good advantage of the positive outlook of the year and make a true effort in your endeavours. Obstacles and difficulties are not completely non-existent. Face each one as it comes decisively and confidently as they can easily be overcome. Take good care of health as there is a tendency to overwork. When walking the success path, be charitable to those less fortunate than you.

**MONKEY**

Although many Feng Shui books and website are probably predicting an OK year in 2013, in my opinion it could be a rewarding year for the Monkey as long as you are prepared to take things slow this year, make plans for all you do and evaluate the benefits and risks for your actions; it sounds daunting but following these steps may reward you with a very good year in 2013 so read through the information for this year and reap the rewards.

All Monkeys need to handle their money with care this year although finances are very good for the Monkey this year. It is a good idea to maybe put your money in an interest account this year as you could see big rewards from the investment you put in this year.

Your potential success this year may be looked upon with jealous eyes and you should be aware that you may have some back stabbing to contend with in 2013. Do not start looking at everyone as the enemy; the year can also bring a little paranoia and also feeling low for no apparent reason.

**ROOSTER**

2013 will be a rewarding year for The Rooster. This may come in the form of recent ideas and

efforts at work and at home now start to materialise. During 2013, you will need to remain careful during heated moments with colleagues, family and friends and try to see the other person's side of the story when in debates or arguments. If you are able to do so, there will be little holding you back during 2013.

The year of the Snake will allow the Rooster to progress well in business and work in 2012 and you should prepare yourself to put a bit of effort in on your part as recent promotions and advancements in the work place may mean a few extra duties on your part although this will work very much in your favour and will help you get far in 2013. Although this can be a pleasing year in business for the Rooster in 2013, you will need to remain calm during moments of stress and temper with colleagues.

**DOG**

2013 will be a very pleasing year for The Dog. An increased social life and new finances await the Dog throughout the year. You will need to keep a calm approach during 2013 and try to remain calm in moments of stress.

You should expect a busy year ahead with wonderful achievements and accomplishments although you must proceed with total reliability and fair play and proceed with caution all year. Although a natural hard worker, in order to achieve success for the year, the foundations need to be laid and you are required to work harder this year but expect good results from your extra hard work.

Success is indicated in business and at home. There are good career opportunities as well as positive prospects for romance or even weddings. On the other hand, your success can lead to jealousy so be aware of gossip or back stabbing and keep a low profile and do not provoke debates or confrontations as they can backfire on you, although the recipient will lose out in the long run because it will be underhand on their part.

**PIG**

For those of you who know me and have followed my advice over the last 13 years you will know I am always positive and I prefer to be more upbeat about the years predictions as the power of the mind is just as powerful as Feng Shui but I have to let you know that 2013 may not be the greatest of years for the Pig if you do not follow my advice.

There is the possibility of a lawsuit coming to the Pig this year so it is highly recommended to be careful when you are signing contracts or dealing with people especially if you have an important room or main door in the west or east and you should use the annual cures and enhancers this year without fail or at the very least place a temple Lion plaque in the east to help dissipate the negative energy here. The amount of work you put in at work will not be proportional to the results you get so try and think things through before you go ahead with them.

You must be careful with your finances this year, especially towards the middle of the year.

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# Business

## Goodbye Saturday mail? Postal Service plans cuts

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Saturday mail may soon go the way of the Pony Express and penny postcards. The Postal Service said Wednesday that it plans to cut back to five-day-a-week deliveries for everything except packages to stem its financial losses in a world radically reordered by the Internet.

"Our financial condition is urgent," declared Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. But Congress has voted in the past to bar the idea of eliminating Saturday delivery, and his announcement immediately drew

protests from some lawmakers. The plan, which is to take effect in August, also brought vigorous objections from farmers, the letter carriers' union and others.

The Postal Service, which suffered a \$15.9 billion loss in the past budget year, said it expected to save \$2 billion annually with the Saturday cutback. Mail such as letters and magazines would be affected. Delivery of packages of all sizes would continue six days a week.

The plan accentuates one of the agency's strong points: Package delivery has increased

## United announces new managing director for Guam and Micronesia

**GUAM**—United Airlines announced the appointment of Sam Shinohara as the new Managing Director of Business Development for Asia/Pacific.

Based on Guam, Sam will manage all commercial activities for Guam and Micronesia in addition to marketing activities for the Asia/Pacific region. He reports directly to James Mueller, United's Vice President, Atlantic and Pacific Sales who is based in United's headquarters in Chicago.

"This is an exciting time for the tourism industry, and I am very excited about taking on this new role. Guam is an important hub for United and we con-



Shinohara

tinue to look for opportunities to build business on Guam to support the island's growth goals. Guam is home for me, so I am thrilled about looking for ways to further strengthen United's commitment to the island and region," says Shinohara.

Shinohara joined Continental Micronesia in May of 2000 and was most recently the Managing Director of Finance and Accounting for United's Asia/Pacific operations. He was born and raised on Guam and holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration with a major in accounting from the University of Hawaii. (*United Airlines*)

## Delta flights between Seattle and Tokyo-Haneda OK'd

Delta Air Lines has received final approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation to operate new nonstop service between Seattle and Tokyo International Airport, also known as Haneda Airport. The new flights will begin on June 1, 2013.

"We would like to thank the DOT, under the capable leadership of Secretary Ray LaHood, for approval of our new service between Seattle and Haneda Airport, which will link the Pacific Northwest with a key airport for business customers traveling to Japan," said Delta CEO Richard Anderson. "Delta's new flights will significantly benefit consumers in the region as well as boost the economy and create jobs by opening new doors for commerce with Asia."

The Haneda flight adds to Delta's growing Asian gateway in Seattle. In addition to Tokyo-Haneda, Delta will begin new service to Shanghai on June 17, and also operates flights to Beijing. (*Delta*)



by 14 percent since 2010, officials say, while the delivery of letters and other mail has plummeted. Email has decreased the mailing of paper letters, but online purchases have increased package shipping, forcing the Postal Service to adjust to customers' new habits.

"Things change," Donahoe said.

AP

Postmaster General and CEO Patrick R. Donahoe speaks during a news conference at U.S. Postal Service headquarters on Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013 in Washington.



**蛇**

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# Nation

## Military tactics, arms helped rescue Ala. hostage

By JAY REEVES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Within hours after an armed, angry man shot a school bus driver and kidnapped a 5-year-old boy, workers feverishly unloaded boxes packed with percussive grenades, military C-4 explosives and an array of guns from a windowless DC-9 that had landed just miles from the suspect's isolated compound.

Helmeted officers decked out in tan fatigues, camouflage and body armor, many carrying long guns, rumbled in rented cargo trucks to and from the property

in southeastern Alabama where 65-year-old Jim Lee Dykes and his young captive were hunkered down in a roughly 6-by-8-foot hand-dug bunker with only one small hatch for an entryway.

Two Humvees belonging to the Dale County Sheriff's Department and a tan, military-style personnel carrier were parked in a field beside the bunker throughout much of the ordeal, along with sport-utility vehicles. Officers dressed in combat-style gear could be seen watching the bunker from an opening in the roof of the tan personnel vehicle.

And as the standoff stretched

into days, drones flew large, lazy circles high above the scene at night.

In many ways, the scene resembled more of a war-time situation than a domestic crime scene as civilian law enforcement relied heavily on military tactics and equipment to end the six-day ordeal.

No military combat personnel were at the scene, according to a law-enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

But authorities' decision to rely on every tool at their

disposal paid off: Dykes had planted an explosive device in a ventilation pipe he'd told negotiators to use to communicate with him on his property in the rural Alabama community of Midland City, and also placed another explosive device inside the bunker, the FBI said in a statement late Tuesday.

Dykes appears to have "reinforced the bunker against any attempted entry by law enforcement," FBI agent Jason Pack said in the statement.

The raid on the bunker was carried out by the FBI's hostage response team, which serves

as the agency's full-time counterterrorism unit, Pack said Wednesday. Trained in military tactics and outfitted with

combat-style gear and weapons, the group was formed 30 years ago in preparation for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

## Boy Scouts delay decision on policy excluding gays

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Caught in an ideological crossfire, the Boy Scouts of America is putting off until May a decision on whether to ease its policy of excluding gays. Whatever the organization eventually does, it's likely to anger major constituencies and worsen schisms within Scouting.

The delay, which the Scouts attributed to "the complexity of this issue," was announced Wednesday after closed-door deliberations by the BSA's national executive board. Under consideration was a proposal to ease the longstanding ban on gays by allowing sponsors of local troops to decide for themselves on the membership of gay Scouts and adult leaders.

As the board met over three days at a hotel near Dallas, it became clear that the proposal would be unacceptable to large numbers of impassioned Scouting families and advocacy groups on both the left and right.

The iconic youth organiza-

tion is now deeply entangled in the broader cultural and political conflicts over such issues as same-sex marriage and religious freedom. Tilting toward either side will probably alienate the other, and a midway balancing act will be difficult.

Gay-rights supporters contend that no Scout units anywhere should exclude gays, and vowed to maintain pressure on the BSA's corporate donors to achieve that goal. Some conservatives, including religious leaders whose churches sponsor troops, warned of mass defections if the ban were even partially eased. They urged supporters to flood headquarters with phone calls.

"In the past two weeks, Scouting has received an outpouring of feedback from the American public," said the BSA's national spokesman, Deron Smith. "It reinforces how deeply people care about Scouting and how passionate they are about the organization."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Authorities: 4 dead in fiery highway crash in Ga.

MONTROSE, Ga. (AP)—More than two dozen cars, pickup trucks and tractor-trailers collided Wednesday morning in a fiery pileup on a foggy Georgia interstate, killing at least four people and sending nine others to a hospital, officials said. Work crews on Interstate 16 were still clearing charred and twisted wreckage from the crash scene, which covered nearly a quarter-mile of the roadway, hours after the chain of crashes occurred at about 8:10 a.m. Crews initially reported three deaths before finding another person dead in the wreckage later Wednesday. The Georgia State Patrol was still trying to piece together what started the series of wrecks involving 27 vehicles. Capt. Kirk McGlamery said even drivers who dodged to the side of cars crashing in front of them weren't safe from getting rear-ended off the highway's shoulder.

#### New whooping cough strain in US raises questions

NEW YORK (AP)—Researchers have discovered the first U.S. cases of whooping cough caused by a germ that may be resistant to the vaccine.



### "Strengthening Families through Parent Leadership"



### PROCLAMATION SIGNING 2013

In celebration of February as NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH, the Division of Youth Services/DCCA is once again reminding the public of the activities for this month:

- Street Market Information Booth: February 7 & 21, 2013
- Parent Leadership Workshop & Fair: February 23, 2013 at Fiesta Resort & Spa 8:00am - 4:30pm
- Parenting Classes: February 20, 21, 22, 25, 26 & 27, 2013 at the Garapan Development Center 9:00am -11:00am.
- Parents Anonymous Meeting every Thursday from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

#### What Parents Say:

*Through Parents Anonymous group, I share at every meeting the importance of the four principles. Everyone who joins this group is encouraged to return to the meeting and was able to find this group meeting helpful and uplifting. Individuals who visited the meeting once were encouraged to return because of the feeling that they were not alone.*

*After finishing the Common Sense class I was able to interact with the children using the SODAS method of problem solving. At Early Childhood S.T.E.P. class, I found it very informative and useful especially when dealing with children. I learned also what and when are we going to give consequences. Thank you so much for the opportunity given to me as one of the parent leaders. May God's Will use us more to reach out for those who really need our support.*

- Candy Tamon Panaga

*I am grateful to be a part of Parents Anonymous. In my daily routine I apply to my family the four principles of Parents Anonymous. It develops my personality as a role model to effectively strengthen my family and build good leadership roles to my co-member parents. I practice my skills to assist the group and my commitment to the Parents Anonymous. I have grown tremendously as a parent. I cannot be any more proud of what this group has taught me and continue to teach me. Thank you!*

- Ronnie Chico

For further information on Parent Leadership Month & DYS' programs and services, & to enroll for parenting classes contact (670) 664-2555/2552 on Saipan • 532-9393 on Rota • 433-2950 on Tinian. **Classes are FREE!**

Health officials are looking into whether cases like the dozen found in Philadelphia might be one reason the nation just had its worst year for whooping cough in six decades. The new bug was previously reported in Japan, France and Finland. "It's quite intriguing. It's the first time we've seen this here," said Dr. Tom Clark of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The U.S. cases are detailed in a brief report from the CDC and other researchers in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

#### Texas prison escapee caught after 16 years

HOUSTON (AP)—A Texas prison escapee on the run for almost 16 years has been captured by authorities in Mexico and awaits extradition to the U.S. to finish serving his sentence on charges of attempted capital murder of a police officer, state Department of Criminal Justice officials said Wednesday. Juan Salaz was apprehended last week. The 37-year-old American citizen had been sought for years by authorities on both sides of the border. Salaz escaped the night of March 22, 1997, from the Garza East prison in Beeville in South Texas by climbing over three 16-foot fences all topped with razor wire.

# Asia

## Protests hit Bangladesh after war crimes verdict

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—Police and protesters clashed for the second day Wednesday after the conviction of a powerful politician in connection with killings during the country's 1971 independence war. More than two dozen small homemade bombs also exploded in the country's north, but there were no reports of injuries.

Local news reports said at least 10 people were hurt Wednesday in clashes outside Dhaka, a day after the latest verdict was announced in a series of controversial war crimes trials. Street battles across the country Tuesday

killed as many as four people and injured dozens more.

The clashes came after Bangladesh's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, ordered a nationwide general strike, shutting down schools and shops, to protest the conviction and life sentence given its leader, Abdul Quader Mollah.

Opposition politicians and human rights organizations have questioned the fairness of the trials into the 40-year-old violence.

Because of the strike, traffic was thin Wednesday on Dhaka's usually clogged streets and schools and most businesses were closed in major cities and

towns across the country.

Despite tight security in the capital, with security forces patrolling the streets, television footage showed protesters throwing stones at police. A local news agency, bdnews24.com, reported that police fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse protesters in Narayanganj district near Dhaka, leaving at least 10 people injured.

Local media also reported that at least 25 homemade bombs exploded Wednesday in the northeastern district of Sylhet, but there were no reports of injuries or damage.

Up to four people reportedly

died Tuesday in clashes between police and party activists in Chittagong, 135 miles (215 kilometers) southeast of Dhaka.

On Tuesday, Mollah was convicted of killing a student and a family of 11 and of aiding Pakistani troops in killing 369 other people. Defense

lawyer Abdur Razzaq said he will appeal the verdict.

Opposition leaders have criticized the war crimes trials as an effort to weaken challengers to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government. Human rights groups have raised concerns about the trials' fairness.

Mollah and five other Jamaat leaders have been charged with committing atrocities during the country's nine-month independence war against Pakistan. Last month, the tribunal hearing the cases sentenced former party member Abul Kalam Azad to death in the first verdict.

## India faulted for failing to curb child sex abuse

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India's government has failed to curb the rampant sexual abuse of children, especially in schools and state-run child care facilities, a rights group said Thursday.

Human Rights Watch cited in its report the recent fatal gang-rape of a young woman on a New Delhi bus in December, an attack that shook the conscience of the nation and forced people to introspect on the way women are treated in India.

The outcry forced the government to rush through new laws to protect women. A government panel appointed

after the attack to examine the country's treatment of women also shone a light on the high incidence of child sexual abuse and the failure of the government to ensure the implementation of child protection laws.

Child rights activists say the government needs to implement the panel's recommendations on preventing child sexual abuse as well.

The new report from Human Rights Watch said such abuse is disturbingly common, government responses are falling short in protecting children and in treating victims. The report urges the

government to ensure rigorous implementation of child protection laws and strict monitoring of child care facilities. It calls for an end to traumatic medical examinations and insensitive treatment by police and other authorities, which subject victims to further distress.

There are no clear statistics on the number of child abuse cases in India, primarily because of the low reporting of such crimes. India's ministry of women and child said in 2007 that around 70 percent of abused children never reported the matter to anyone.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Flash floods kill 29 people in northwest Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—A Pakistani official says flash floods following torrential rains in the country's northwest this week have killed 29 people. A spokesman for the disaster management authority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province said Wednesday that most of the casualties died when their homes collapsed. Adnan Khan says 75 people were also reported injured in the floods. He says the rains, which started on Monday, damaged about 1,400 homes in the province.

#### Police in China hold 2 for running over toddler

**BEIJING** (AP)—Police have detained a local official and a driver for fatally running over a 13-month-old boy during an argument with his family over the payment of a fine for violating

China's strict family planning limits, state media and the local government said Wednesday. The boy's death Monday is the latest incident to aggravate long-running public resentment over the family planning rules that limit many families to one child and some rural ones to two. After the incident in a village outside the eastern city of Rui'an, thousands of residents protested outside local government offices, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

#### Filipino killed in pirate attack off Nigeria

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine officials say a Filipino crewman has been fatally shot in a pirate attack on a chemical tanker off the coast of Nigeria. Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said Wednesday the crewmen's local employ-

ment agency confirmed the Marshall-islands flagged tanker Pyxis Delta was attacked Monday. He says a Filipino was shot and was pronounced dead. The other eight Filipinos "are safe on board the ship which is anchored off the coast of Nigeria." Hernandez says the department has no other details.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB13-DEQ-072 (ROTA)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 05, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA  
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

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RFP13-DOC-065**

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SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

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**ANNUAL SALARY:** \$24,889.350 – 30,246.740

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

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/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director

# World

## Tunisia to shake up government after assassination

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)**—Shaken by the assassination of a prominent leftist opposition leader that unleashed major protests, Tunisia's prime minister announced Wednesday that he would form a new government of technocrats to guide the country to elections "as soon as possible."

The decision by Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali was a clear concession to the opposition, which has long demanded a reshuffle of the Islamist-dominated government. It also came hours after the first assassination of a political leader in post-revolutionary Tunisia.

The killing of 48-year-old

Chokri Belaid, a secularist and fierce critic of Ennahda, the moderate ruling Islamist party, marked an escalation in the country's political violence and sparked allegations of government negligence—even outright complicity. It also bolstered fears that Tunisia's transition to democracy will be far more chaotic than originally hoped.

"This is a sad day that shook the country regardless of our differences," Jebali said in an address to the nation, whose capital city still smelled of the tear gas lobbed at protesters angry over the killing. "We are at a crossroads, and we will learn from it to

make a peaceful Tunisia, secure and pluralist, where we may differ but not kill each other."

The ruling coalition, led by Jebali's Ennahda party, had been in stalled negotiations with opposition parties to expand the coalition and redistribute ministerial portfolios in an effort to calm the country's fractious politics. Elections had been expected for the summer, but an exact date depended on lawmakers finishing work on a new constitution.

Jebali said the new ministers in the technocratic government "would not belong to any party and its task would be limited to

organizing elections as soon as possible with a neutral administration." The statement implied that Jebali would be leading the new government and that its selection was imminent.

Tunisians overthrew their long-ruling dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011, kicking off a wave of pro-democracy uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa that have met with varying degrees of success.

With its relatively small, well-educated population of 10 million, Tunisia has been widely expected to have the best chance of successfully

transitioning to democracy. Its first post-dictatorship election brought to power the moderate Islamists of Ennahda in a coalition with two secular parties.

With the fall of the country's secular dictatorship, however, hardline Islamist groups also have flourished and there have been a string of attacks by ultraconservative Muslims known as Salafis against arts, culture and people they deemed to be impious.

In the last few months, there also have appeared the Leagues to Protect the Revolution, groups that say they are fighting corruption and seeking out remnants of the Ben Ali regime.

But opposition leaders such as Belaid said the leagues have become Ennahda-backed goon squads that attacked opposition rallies. Last weekend saw a string of attacks against such meetings, including a rally held by Belaid's Popular Front in northern Tunisia.

## Acapulco rape case overshadows peak tourist season

**ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)**—The tourism world turned its eyes on Mexico after six Spanish women were raped by masked gunmen during a vacation in the long-troubled Pacific coast resort of Acapulco

While there has been talk of reviving the golden era of the '40s and '50s, international tourists have long steered away from Acapulco, even before the drug violence of recent years, as the city fell into disrepair and glitzier Cancun and Los Cabos gained favor. The question now is whether the attack will affect other resorts as Mexico prepares for its annual spring break onslaught and peak season.

The hours-long assault was carried out by a gang of masked gunmen who burst into the beachfront home before dawn on Monday and tied up the six men inside, then raped the women. A seventh Mexican woman was unharmed.

"We are really sorry about what happened with the Spanish tourists because ... it is something that affects Mexico's image," said Juan Carlos Gonzalez, tourism secretary of Quintana Roo, the Caribbean coast state where Cancun is located and which hosted about 17 million tourists last year.

But, he added, "we are definitely not as contaminated with the crime issue as other states in Mexico."

Acapulco barely registers on U.S. tourists' radar anymore, said Kathy Gerhardt, a spokeswoman for Travel Leaders, a network of independently owned and operated travel agencies in the U.S.

"Those individuals trying to lump Acapulco into the list of top Mexico destinations for U.S. travelers are simply misinformed," she said.

In a recent survey of over 1,000 travel agency owners, managers and agents, "not a single individual chose Acapulco as a top international destination they are booking for their clients," Gerhardt said.

"We do not see any spillover effect," she added, for areas like Cancun, which Travel Leaders lists as the No. 2 foreign destination for U.S. travelers, after Caribbean island cruises.

F MATTHEW SMITH  
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero  
San Jose Village  
P.O. Box 501127  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0609A
vs.	AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR TRACT 22089-2
EUGENE R. CLOTHIER and MONA M.T. CLOTHIER, Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Eugene R. and Mona M.T. Clothier in the following described, real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction.

**Tract 22089-2** (Part of Tract 22089, AH 238-77), containing an area of 29,092 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadstral Plat No. 3005/89, the original of which was recorded 17 Jan 89 as Document No. 89-0164 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, February 22, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- 2. Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
  - To withdraw the property listed for sale before or before a bid for such property is accepted;
  - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
  - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- 4. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

**5. Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

**6. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

**7. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Liana S. Hofschneider, individually, and dba CNMI Service Station and Richard U. Hofschneider in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 25th day of January 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO,  
ACTING COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety

JENNIFER DOCKTER  
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero  
San Jose Village  
P.O. Box 501127  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0609A
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION
ESTATE OF PONCIANO CRUZ RASA, VIVIAN P. RASA, and CNMI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Estate of Ponciano Cruz Rasa and Vivian P. Rasa in the following described, real property situated in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction.

**Lot No. 057 T 99** Tinian, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadstral Plat No. 057 T 02, the original of which was recorded 05 February 1991 as Document No. 91-820 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

Real property located in As Lito, Saipan, legally identified as **Tract No. 22507-5**, containing an area of 1,100 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2148/88, approved by the Chief, Lands and Survey's Divisions, dated July 15, 1988, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

**Lot No. 003 T 55** (part of Lot 033 T 39), formerly known as Block 14, Lot 2, situated in the island of Tinian, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadstral Plat No. 003 T 01, the original of which was recorded December 13, 1976 as Document No. 5727 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

**Lot No. 003 T 55** (part of Lot 033 T 39), formerly known as Block 14, Lot 2, situated in the island of Tinian, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadstral Plat No. 003 T 01, the original of which was recorded December 13, 1976 as Document No. 5727 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, February 22, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- 2. Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.

**3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

- To withdraw the property listed for sale before or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

**4. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

**5. Deposit/Payment.** A deposit of ten (10%) percent of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

**6. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

**7. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Liana S. Hofschneider, individually, and dba CNMI Service Station and Richard U. Hofschneider in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 25th day of January 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO,  
ACTING COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety

F MATTHEW SMITH  
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero  
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Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0022
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION
LIANA S. HOFSCHEIDER, individually, and dba IS SERVICE STATION, and RICHARD U. HOFSCHEIDER, Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Joseph M. Mendiola, Juanita M. Mendiola, and Carleen H. Palacios in the following described real property situated in the island of Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction.

**Lot No. 006 T 72** as shown in the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastre Plat No. 006 T 06 dated September 28, 1983, on file in said Office, said land containing an area of 1,048 square meters, more or less, and is situated in San Jose Village, Tinian, Mariana Islands, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

Real property located in As Lito, Saipan, legally identified as **Tract No. 22507-5**, containing an area of 1,100 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2148/88, approved by the Chief, Lands and Survey's Divisions, dated July 15, 1988, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

**Lot No. 006 T 72** as shown in the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastre Plat No. 006 T 01 dated May 13, 1982, on file in said Office. More specifically where the Lito Print Shop is currently located. Further described as follows: 22,361 meters 1 A of boundary Line S 85 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds E to Point B; 22,361 meters from Point B to Point C 5° 5' 6" minutes 00 seconds W; 22,361 meters from Point C to Point D 5° 5' 6" minutes 00 seconds W; 22,361 meters from Point D to Point 1 A at 5° 5' 6" minutes 00 seconds E, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

The above tract of land is bounded on the North by a portion of Lot No. 1813, and a portion of Lot No. 1815, on the East by a portion of Lot No. 1811, on the South by the remainder of Lot No. 1811, and on the West by a portion of Lot No. 1815. Said parcel of land contains 0.2 hectares, more or less, subject to survey.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, February 22, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- 2. Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.

**3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

- To withdraw the property listed for sale before or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

**4. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

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**7**

# Off The Wall

## Ohio man recovers stolen 300-year-old family Bible

**MARYSVILLE, Ohio** (AP)—A central Ohio man's heart sank when he realized that burglars had broken in and stolen a safe holding his most prized possession—a 300-year-old family Bible.

The Bible, written in German Gothic script and containing the handwritten dates of births, deaths and marriages for seven generations of Tim Shier's family, disappeared in the burglary in Marysville, near Columbus,

in December 2011.

But thanks to a bit of luck, a sharp-eyed family member, local deputies and Goodwill—which had ended up with the Bible and then sold it online—the heirloom is back in Shier's hands.

He called it an answer to his prayers.

"Our family can't put a price on that Bible," Shier told The Columbus Dispatch for a story Tuesday. "History can never

be replaced."

The effort started with the arrest of four men in the burglary. A judge offered to give one of the defendants a break if he could find the Bible. But the man came up empty, saying that he thought it had been dropped in some kind of bin.

A few weeks ago, one of Shier's cousins saw a reference to an old German Bible on the genealogy website ancestry.com. She called Shier, who called the

sheriff's office in Union County where he lives.

Sheriff's detectives enlisted the help of Goodwill and tracked it to Louisiana and then to Georgia. But the couple who had bought it wouldn't send it back without recouping the \$405 they had paid for it.

The sheriff's office doesn't

buy back stolen goods. So the Union County police union stepped up and covered the cost.

"This was no stolen television," said detective Mike Justice, who worked on the case and is president of the Union County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 171. "It's a family heirloom, and we believed it

was important to get it back."

On Saturday night, the treasured book was carried down the aisle and presented to Shier during the police lodge's annual benefit concert at a high school auditorium.

Shier's family ended up donating enough money to repay the police union.

### Stewie, the world's longest cat, dies in Nevada

**RENO, Nev.** (AP)—Stewie the Cat, the longest domestic cat in the world at more than 4 feet long from nose to tail, has died.

Stewie was surrounded by family when he succumbed to a yearlong battle with cancer Monday evening at his Reno home, owner Robin Hendrickson said Tuesday. He was 8.

Guinness World Records declared Stewie the record-holder in August 2010, measuring 48.5 inches from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail.

Hundreds of fans flooded Stewie's Facebook site with memories and condolences Tuesday. The Maine Coon cat was a certified therapy animal that frequently visited a Reno senior center and helped promote animal welfare awareness with the Nevada Humane Society.

"Stewie was always very social and loved meeting new people," Hendrickson said. "He has touched many lives, and for that I am grateful."

Stewie's full name was My-mains Stewart Gilligan. Hen-



In this file photo taken July 1, 2009, Robin Hendrickson stretches out her Maine Coon cat Stewie outside of her home in Reno, Nev.

dickson bought him from a breeder in Hermiston, Oregon, in 2005. Last month, he attended the International Cat Show in Portland, Oregon.

"He did really well at the show, even though he wasn't feeling totally perfect," said Stewie's breeder, Valerie Horton, who also serves as the show's entry clerk. "He loved being there because he loved the public. He always did."

Horton said Maine Coons are the largest domestic breed of cats. She's been raising them

since 1980.

"It's the luck of the draw," Horton said. "We mostly breed for type and temperament, and then hope for the size. Stewie's father came from some very large cats."

Guinness World Records officials did not immediately respond to inquiries about a successor to Stewie's record. The previous record-holder, Leo, a 48-inch-long Maine Coon owned by Frieda Ireland of Chicago, died several years ago.

Police haven't released the name of the girl whose mother was reportedly still



Tim Shier looks over a family bible dating from the 1700's on Feb. 3, 2013 in his home in Marysville, Ohio.

### Pittsburgh girl, 6, crashes car in bid to see dad

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Pittsburgh police say a determined 6-year-old girl didn't hurt anyone when she crashed her mother's car while trying to drive across town to visit her father.

Police haven't released the name of the girl whose mother was reportedly still

sleeping when the girl took the woman's car keys about 9 a.m. Sunday.

Police Sgt. Jerry Parker tells reporters the little girl is tall for her age, but adds: "How she knew how to operate a car, your guess is as good as mine."

Police say the girl hit two

parked vehicles, pushing one of them into a third, before hitting a utility pole.

Police and the girl's father arrived to take her home after the accident.

Police are still investigating but haven't said if anyone will face charges.

<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>HAIQIN DAI</b> Petitioner, vs. <b>GAO DONG JIE</b> Respondent,	<b>FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0554</b> <b>SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION</b>

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is HAIQIN DAI, C/O PMB 2621, P.O. BOX 10002 GARAPAN, SAIPAN as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<b>JOETEN</b>	<b>Civil Action No. 09-0053</b>
<b>MOTORS COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff,</b>	<b>NOTICE FOR AN ORDER IN AID OF JUDGMENT HEARING</b>
<b>vs.</b>	<b>MIN BO CHO Defendant.</b>

Notice is hereby given that an Order issued by the Superior Court directs Defendant **Min Bo Cho** to appear before the Saipan Superior Court on **February 27, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.** in the above-captioned matter involving the monetary judgment in the amount of **\$8,008.96** that was rendered against Defendant Cho on February 26, 2012.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2013.

/s/ S. Joshua Berger  
S. Joshua Berger-F0173  
Attorney for Plaintiff

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<b>MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122</b> THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537	
ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff	
<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>THE FINANCIAL &amp; INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,</b>	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338</b>
<b>-v-</b>	<b>FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE</b>
<b>RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants.</b>	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2013;

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<b>Gloria M. Khan, Petitioner,</b>	<b>FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0220</b>
<b>vs.</b>	<b>SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION</b>
<b>Ashiku Khan, Respondent.</b>	

#### TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505464, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013;

/s/Clerk of Court

#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement and Delivery of Thirty (30) Proximity Fire Coats and Proximity Fire Pants for the Saipan International Airport Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department

RFP No. CPA-RFP-001-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting for sealed proposals for procurement and delivery of thirty (30) brand new Globe 87U Proximity Fire Coat and thirty (30) Globe Proximity Fire Pants to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Saipan International Airport.

All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all shipping and handling charges and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract, including excise tax. Size information can be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Saipan International Airport's Arrival Terminal. Additional details are as follows:

##### Globe 87U Proximity Fire Coat

- NFPA Compliant
- 32" Length
- Seamless 10 ounce PBK/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
- 42 Aramid Quilt Thermal Liner
- Stearic Moisture Barrier
- Zipper Inner Closure/Velcro Outer Closure
- Double Action Cargo Pockets, 9" x 9" with Hand Warmers
- Solid Elbow and Wrist Guards
- PB Hand and Wrist Guards
- 13P Radio Pocket on Left Chest, 3" x 3.5" x 9" with Antenna Notch on Left Side
- DRD Drag Rescue Device
- Arashield Cuffs
- Action Cargo Pockets
- Thermally Enhanced Upper Body and Elbows
- 12" Throat Tab
- All other standard features of the GX-7
- Up to Size 58

##### Globe 87U Proximity Fire Pant

- NFPA Compliant
- Seamless 10 ounce PBK/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
- 32 Aramid Quilt Thermal Liner
- Stearic Moisture Barrier
- 6" Back Bib
- 2" x 10" x 10" Cargo Pockets
- Elbow and Wrist Guards
- Arashield Cuffs
- Reverse Boot Cut
- Replaceable Self Material Knees with Sewn on Frame
- Up to Size 58

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2013.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Intent
- Delivery timeframe
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than February 8, 2013.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the Commonwealth Ports Authority Standard Purchase Order, including but not limited to non-delivery and cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO

Date: January 25, 2013

# Science & Technology

## Pew: Most Facebook users take a break

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Too much drama, boredom and scads of irrelevant information are just some of the reasons Facebook users give for taking a break from the world's biggest social networking site for weeks at a time, according to a new study.

A report from the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project found that some 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus of at least several weeks for myriad reasons, whether they were weary from an onslaught of gossip, or for the more pious, the arrival of Lent.

Yet the use of Facebook, whether constant or not, is pervasive in America.

Of the American adults who use the Internet, 67 percent are on Facebook, Pew found. That compares with 20 percent who

use LinkedIn and 16 percent who are on Twitter.

But users do come and go, some temporarily, and some for good. Seven percent of Internet users said they used Facebook at one point but no longer do. By its own count, Facebook Inc. has 1.06 billion users worldwide who check in at least once a month. This includes millions of duplicate and fake accounts. More than 150 million users are in the U.S.

The largest slice of users, 20 percent, said that they were simply too busy with their own lives to follow the constant stream of status updates, George Takei quotes and baby photos.

Privacy and security concerns, which have received plenty of media coverage, were low on the list. Only 4 percent of people gave these reasons,

combined with concerns about ads and spam, as their "Facebook vacation" motivation.

Lee Rainie, director of the Internet and American Life Project, said privacy is more of a big policy question that people do not concern themselves with day-by-day. Rather, people are contemplating how they spend their time and allocate their attention.

"People are making interesting calibrations and recalibrations" about how they spend their time and about the worth of constantly staying connected to friends, family and others online, Rainie said.

And while people do take Facebook breaks, Internet users are logging in more frequently than ever, the study found.

Among other interesting tidbits:

■ 59 percent of Facebook users

said the site is about as important to them as it was a year ago.

■ 12 percent said Facebook is more important to them than it was a year ago and 28 percent said it has become less important.

■ 8 percent said they took a break from Facebook because they were spending too much time using it.

■ 69 percent said they plan to spend the same amount of

time on Facebook in the coming year. Twenty-seven percent plan to spend less time on the site and 3 percent, more time.

Responding to the report, Facebook said that its growth and user engagement remains strong.

"As we announced last week, Facebook has grown daily active users across all regions, ending the year with more than 1 billion monthly active users,

618 million daily active users and 680 million people accessing Facebook from mobile devices," according to a company statement. "Our announcement came on the heels of independent analyst reports which concluded that Facebook is the most downloaded mobile app in the U.S., and that time spent on Facebook accounts for over 20 percent of all time spent on mobile apps in the US."

## Closest Earth-like planet 'stroll across park'

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP)—Earth-like worlds may be closer and more plentiful than anyone imagined.

Astronomers reported Wednesday that the nearest Earth-like planet may be just 13 light-years away—or some 77 trillion miles. That planet hasn't been found yet, but should be there based on the team's study of red dwarf stars.

Galactically speaking, that's right next door.

If our Milky Way galaxy were shrunk to the size of the United States, the distance between Earth and its closest Earth-like neighbor would be the span of New York's Central Park, said

Harvard University graduate student Courtney Dressing, the study's lead author.

"The nearest Earth-like planet is simply a stroll across the park away," she said at a news conference in Cambridge, Mass.

Small, cool red dwarfs are the most common stars in our galaxy, numbering at least 75 billion.

The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics team estimates 6 percent of red dwarf stars have Earth-like planets.

To qualify, the planet must be roughly the size of Earth and get as much light from its star, as Earth does from the sun.

This high rate of occurrence

Because the red dwarfs are so much smaller, potentially habitable planets would need to orbit much closer than the Earth does to the sun. They likely would be rocky, the astronomers said, but different types of atmospheres could lead to different types of life.

## 25 billion served up: iTunes reaches milestone

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The answer to the trivia question will be: "Monkey Drums (Goskel Vancin Remix) by Chase Buch." That's the 25-billionth song purchased on iTunes.

Apple announced the sales milestone in a news release

Wednesday. The company says Phillip Lupke of Germany purchased and downloaded Buch's song and will receive an iTunes gift card worth 10,000 euros, or about \$13,500.

It took the Cupertino, Calif.,

company almost 10 years to reach the milestone. Customers download an average of 15,000 songs a minute from the iTunes music store, which was launched in April 2003. The digital retailer's catalog is 26 million songs deep.

### Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

## †Theodora Taman Palacios Camacho

Wish to express our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our Families, Relatives and Friends for your thoughtful expressions of love, condolence, prayers, support and contributions during our bereavement.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers with the Lord.

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, &  
Thank you from The Family*

### Science Matters

## Hunt for dark reality

Deep underground in South Dakota, an experiment has begun into a still completely unsolved riddle about the makeup of the universe: What is dark matter?

### The Davis laboratory

Located in tunnels of former Homestake gold mine

South Dakota Black Hills

### Water tank shields detector

70,000 gal. (265 m³) tank of purified water blocks radiation from rock walls

### Particles make tiny flashes

1 Dark matter particle flies through a 6.5 ft. (1.8 m) tall container of cold liquid xenon

2 Collides with xenon atom, making a flash

3 Super-sensitive light detector at end of tank registers flash

Flashes give first evidence in history of dark matter events

### Dark matter?

23 percent of the universe is strange inert material that exerts gravitation on regular matter but has never been detected

100,000 particles of it pass straight through every square centimeter of Earth each second

© 2013 MCT

# Life & Style

## 1865 baseball card fetches \$92K in Maine auction

**BIDDEFORD, Maine** (AP)—A rare 148-year-old baseball card discovered at a rural Maine yard sale has been auctioned for \$92,000.

Saco River Auction Co. in Biddeford held an auction Wednesday night that included a card depicting the Brooklyn Atlantics amateur baseball club.

Troy Thibodeau, manager and auctioneer at Saco River Auction, said the card drew plenty of interest. Bidding started at \$10,000 and quickly rose to the final \$92,000, which included an 18-percent premium.

The name of the buyer, who was at the auction house, was not released.

The card isn't the same as a modern-day baseball card, which became common in the 1880s. Rather, it's an original photograph from 1865 mounted on a card, showing nine players and a manager.

The Library of Congress said last month it was aware of only two copies of the photo. The other is in the institution's collection.

In its book "Baseball Americana," the Library of Congress calls the item the first



This undated file photo released Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013 by the Saco River Auction Co., in Biddeford, Maine, shows a rare 1865 baseball card of the Brooklyn Atlantics, discovered in a photo album bought at a yard sale in Baileyville, Maine, on the Canadian border.

dated baseball card, handed out to supporters and opposing teams in a gesture of bravado from the brash Brooklynites, who were dominant and won their league championships in 1861, 1864 and 1865.

A Maine man who doesn't want to be publicly identified found the card inside an old

photo album he bought while antique picking in the small town of Baileyville on the Canadian border. The man bought the photo album, old Coca-Cola bottles and a couple of oak chairs together in a single purchase for less than \$100, Thibodeau said.

It was impossible to predict

what kind of price the card would fetch because of its rarity, he said, but he guessed before the auction that the winning bid would fall somewhere between \$50,000 and \$500,000. The priciest baseball card ever is a 1909 Honus Wagner card, which sold for \$2.8 million in 2007.

## Chris Brown returns to court for probation issues

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—With the woman he assaulted throwing him a kiss, Chris Brown walked into court Wednesday to face allegations he failed to complete his community labor sentence for Rihanna's 2009 beating.

A judge asked for more information and scheduled another hearing in two months.

Rihanna, the glamorous singer whose bruised face became a tabloid fixture after she was beaten by her then-boyfriend on the way to the Grammys, has been dating Brown again.

She arrived with the R&B star, his mother and two other women and blew him a kiss as he entered the courtroom. They left together after the short proceeding in which Superior Court Judge James Brandlin set the next hearing for April 5.

Brown's lawyer, Mark Geragos, said he was disturbed about the way the district attorney handled the matter and said he would be filing a motion opposing the prosecution's move to modify Brown's fulfillment of his community labor sentence.

Prosecutors, who said they could find no credible evidence that Brown had completed his community labor in his home state of Virginia, asked that he start all over and put in 180 days in Los Angeles County.

### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-015

##### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com) and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email [charles\\_warren@cucgov.org](mailto:charles_warren@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Acting Executive Director

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Friday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
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### NOW SHOWING



#### Identity Thief

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, John Cho

Genre: Comedy • Rated R

#### Synopsis

Breakout Bridesmaids star Melissa McCarthy steals Jason Bateman's identity in this comedy from director Seth Gordon and Universal Pictures.



#### Warm Bodies

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich

Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13

#### Synopsis

A tormented zombie (Nicholas Hoult) experiences a profound transformation after entering into an unusual relationship with the daughter (Teresa Palmer) of a military leader charged with eradicating the walking dead. As the unlikely pair build a tenuous bridge between the living and the dead, those on both sides of the battle begin to sense that nothing in their world will ever be the same again. Warm Bodies is based on the novel by Isaac Marion. Rob Corddry and John Malkovich round out the starring cast.



#### Bullet to the Head

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Kang Sung, Sarah Shahi

Genre: Action • Rated R



#### Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	7:25	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen

Genre: Adventure • Rated R



#### Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday	4:25
Sunday	4:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen

Genre: Adventure • Rated R



#### Lincoln

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon through Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn

Genre: Drama • Rated PG 13



#### Mama

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

## Walters hopes to return to 'The View' in 3 weeks

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Barbara Walters isn't "scratching too much" from chickenpox, but she says she won't be back at "The View" for three more weeks.

Walters phoned into the ABC

### In Vegas, Abrams gives few hints about 'Star Wars'

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—A newly announced "Star Wars" sequel was on everyone's mind when J.J. Abrams took the stage Wednesday at a Las Vegas video game conference, but he made only a sideways mention of the film he has been hired to direct. The reference was a throw-away joke from his last franchise reboot.

The director played a scene from his 2009 "Star Trek" film to illustrate the importance of embroidering films with subtle details, and freeze-framed on a shot of a familiar "Star Wars" robot peeking from space junk.

"So they're looking at all the debris that's out there, and curiously, it's R2D2," he said, drawing a roar of laughter.

Gabe Newell, president of video game developer Valve, shared a stage with Abrams at the Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain Summit at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

"So now I have to go back through your movies looking at all the debris to figure out what movie you're going to direct next?" Newell asked.

Abrams has given die-hard fans few clues about his vision for the seventh live-action "Star Wars" film. He was announced as its director in January.

The Sin City appearance left fans of The Force hungering for more insight.

"I'd love to know who they'll focus on, what character, how far in the future it will be set, things like that," said Sadie Rose Schwartzmiller, 19, a comic-book creator who won her ticket to the event in an art contest.

Abrams has made a name for himself as a trusted steward of beloved fantasy universes, directing well-received additions to the "Star Trek" and "Mission: Impossible" franchises.

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas opened the door to the latest round of spin-offs when he sold his Lucasfilm empire to The Walt Disney Co. for \$4.05 billion last fall. The company is planning three sequels and two peripheral movies focusing on characters.

"Episode VII" is tentatively scheduled for release in the summer of 2015.

Last month, Abrams told a group of reporters that he wanted to make sure the sequel was "something that touches people."

On Wednesday, he did give his audience of nerds and gamers one revelation when he announced his intention to collaborate with Newell—the man behind the hit games "Portal," "Half-Life" and "Counter-Strike."

"There's an idea that we had for a game that we'd like to develop," he said.

talk show Wednesday. Calling from her home, she reported that she's weak but not in any pain.

She was hospitalized on Jan. 19 after fainting and cutting her head at a party in Washington.

The 83-year-old has said she had the chickenpox and a temperature at the time, but didn't realize it. She suffered a concussion and got six stitches. She was released 10 days later.

She announced Wednesday: "I'm not itching away."

Then she marveled that the best remedy for itching is an age-old one, saying: "We have Facebook, Twitter and calamine lotion."

### 'Richard III' picked for a New York parking lot



AP

Undated photo made available by the University of Leicester, England, Monday Feb. 4 2013 of the remains found underneath a car park last September at the Grey Friars excavation in Leicester, which have been declared Monday "beyond reasonable doubt" to be the long lost remains of England's King Richard III, missing for 500 years. Richard was immortalized in a play by Shakespeare as a hunchbacked usurper who left a trail of bodies—including those of his two young nephews, murdered in the Tower of London—on his way to the throne.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It seems only fitting: With the bones of King Richard III found under a parking lot in Britain, a theater company that performs free Shakespeare plays every summer in a New York parking lot has decided what to stage this year—

#### "Richard III."

The Drilling Company said Wednesday its Shakespeare in the Parking Lot program will feature the tyrant from Aug. 1 to Aug. 17 in the parking lot at Ludlow and Broome streets on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Says director Hamilton Clancy: "We have known for a long time that parking lots and Shakespeare were connected. Our intention is to bring Richard III back to life in a parking lot."

### Selena Gomez works the front row at Neo show



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Selena Gomez sat front and center at the fashion show to preview the first collection in her collaboration with Adidas' streetwear Neo label.

But the runway at Wednesday evening's show was a next-gen catwalk: Teenager bloggers were charged with styling the outfits instead of industry pro-

In this Nov. 27, 2012 file photo, singer Selena Gomez attends the 8th Annual UNICEF Snowflake Ball at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### MTV picks up 2nd season of W.Va.-based 'Buckwild'

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va.** (AP)—MTV says reality show "Buckwild" about some wild young West Virginians will be picked up for a second season. The show is filmed largely around Sissonville and Charleston. It has drawn criticism from many quarters, including the state's Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, for what some see as a negative portrayal of the state's young people. In December, Manchin asked the network to cancel the show, saying it profits off of "poor decisions of our youth" and portrays ugly, inaccurate stereotypes. But MTV said Wednesday that "Buckwild" has been pulling in an average of 3 million viewers per episode since its premiere last month. The half-hour, 12-episode series has been following nine hard-partying friends who find sometimes frightening ways to fill their free time.

#### Boy band The Wanted sign on for E! reality series

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Wanted is trying to keep it real: The boy band has signed on to do a reality series on E! The British fivesome announced Wednesday that their show will debut in June. A press release said the behind-the-scenes series will be "unvarnished" and "non-glossy." The Wanted broke onto the U.S. music scene with the Top 5 hit "Glad You Came." They dropped their self-titled U.S. debut EP last year, and have released two successful albums and multiple singles in the United Kingdom. The group is planning a full-length album and international tour for the fall. Their U.S. manager is Scooter Braun, who also manages Justin Bieber. The band members include Max George, Nathan Sykes, Jay McGuiness, Tom Parker and Siva Kaneswaran.

### Granddad wants to free boy from parents' protective bubble

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** When my 9-month-old grandson, "Eli," comes to visit, I become frustrated to the point of leaving the room, if not my house. Not only must we put away things he shouldn't get into, we must tape shut every drawer and cabinet, block access behind couches and chairs to keep Eli from electrical cords, then constantly be on guard for the "unexpected."

Eli is never restricted in any way, and would never be confined to an "inhumane" playpen for even a few minutes. At the slightest whimper, he is picked up. He's walked to sleep (or taken on car rides to "soothe" him), and his parents literally run to him whenever he awakens.

I'm reluctant to criticize because I know they'll be offended, but I'm aching to suggest they teach the child about limits and restrictions and correct him when he misbehaves. Let him experience being in his playpen or even allow him to whine a little before jumping at his every whim. We're not allowed to say "no-no"—the preferred response being to distract Eli and let him go about doing as he pleases. By the way, both parents are professional psycho-babble people.

Am I unreasonable to think my grandson is capable of learning limits with a simple "no-no" and, perhaps, a little smack on his hand? Or should I keep my mouth shut?

WELL-MEANING GRANDPA

**DEAR GRANDPA:** Well-meaning as you are, I doubt that you will be able to convince two "professional psycho-babble people" that by not giving their little one limits, they're creating a monster. Rather than allow his visits to upset you, I suggest you visit this family in their OWN home.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am shocked at the rude treatment I see many older mothers receive from their children. I spend considerable time at various doctor appointments. Fortunately, I can drive myself, but many senior women must depend on their caregivers—often their daughters—who treat them badly. I can't help but wonder how they treat their mothers in private since they are so insensitive in public.

I'm grateful to have a daughter who puts up with my occasional crankiness and complaints. She loves me unconditionally and takes wonderful care of me when needed.

I'd like to ask sons and daughters to be kinder and more patient with their elderly moms. They won't be around forever.

GRATEFUL MOM IN PHOENIX

**DEAR GRATEFUL:** I wish you had described more clearly the interactions you observed. What you saw may not have been a lack of devotion to their mothers, but signs of caregiver stress or burnout.

Daughters (and sons) caught in the sandwich generation—earning a living and caring for their children as well as their aged parents—are not always at their best. However, you are correct. These frail, elderly parents need compassion and patience because they won't be around forever.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** A question was recently raised at a family gathering. If the patriarch of a family is deceased and a man wants to marry his daughter, should he ask permission from her mother?

CURIOS IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR CURIOUS:** It would be a lovely, respectful gesture if he did. But first he should be 100 percent certain that the daughter would like to marry him.

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



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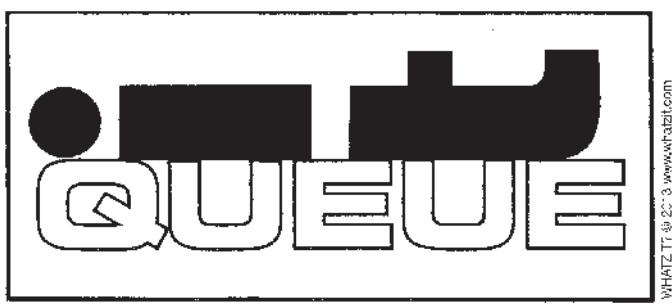
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CAD architect w/degree. Please call  
N15Architects 233-5115

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and carpentry work. Send resume to  
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#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Assistant Project Manager

- 2-3 years work experience – construction
- Engineering graduate

Please send resume to:  
Triple "L" Construction, Inc.  
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#### St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

#### (04) Hemodialysis Technician

- Certificate from a Junior college/Technical School in health care.
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program.
- Three year hemodialysis experienced-Preferred.
- Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670)234-2903 ext. 124.

#### St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

#### (01) Nurse Supervisor

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three year as a charge nurse in dialysis.
- English Language skill-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
- In-service train with Baxter Phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call Judy Arriola at 234-2903 ext. 124.



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- Preferably 5 years experience with IDS, Access Control and CCTV (PTZ, Matrix Switcher, DVR's) system installation, programming, maintenance and troubleshooting.
- Able to pass a security clearance and background investigation.
- Knowledge of federal and local laws.
- Knowledge of OHM's law, Basic AC/DC and ability to use a DMM
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- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work flexible hours / shifts including weekends, nights, holidays and be on-call for emergency response.
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and own transportation.

Prospective applicants will be subject to pre-employment drug test and will be required to submit police & Court clearance upon hiring.

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# Mayor defends New Orleans after Super Bowl outage



San Francisco 49ers cheerleaders perform during a power outage at the Superdome in the second half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game between the 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013, in New Orleans.

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP) — New Orleans' mayor defended his city days after a power outage plunged the Super Bowl into 34 minutes of darkness, while authorities still baffled by the cause announced they were bringing in a consultant to help investigate.

The outage that embarrassed New Orleans as it sought to showcase its rebound from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina happened despite hundreds of thousands of dollars of improvements to decaying utility lines, documents show.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu sought to put an upbeat spin on the matter at a news conference Tuesday, saying the city's performance as host was near flawless despite the lights-out episode.

"The 34 minutes of darkness will never overshadow or outshine the city of New Orleans and how we performed this Super Bowl week," Landrieu said.

He also said the outage won't pull the plug on city plans to bid for an 11th Super Bowl in 2018. It last hosted a Super Bowl in 2002, three years before Katrina swamped the city.

Concerned the Superdome might not be able to handle the energy needed for its first Super Bowl since Katrina, officials spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on upgrades to decayed utility lines, according to the documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The improvements apparently weren't enough, however, to prevent the glaring third quarter outage that was as much talked about as the Baltimore Ravens' 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Still, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the city did a terrific job hosting this time. "I fully expect that we will be back here for Super Bowls," he said.

On Tuesday, Superdome of-

ficials and the power provider Entergy New Orleans said they had failed to find a cause for the outage. They added they would hire a consultant to analyze their data. It wasn't clear how long an investigation would take.

"We thought it was important to get another party looking at this to make sure we were looking at everything that we need to," Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

Tests on the electrical feeders that connect incoming power from utility lines to the stadium showed decay and "a chance of failure," state officials warned in a memo dated Oct. 15. The documents also show that Entergy expressed concern about the reliability of the service before the Super Bowl.

The memo said Entergy and the Superdome's engineering staff "had concerns regarding

the reliability of the Dome service from Entergy's connection point to the Dome."

The memo was prepared for the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District, the state body responsible for the Superdome.

Authorities subsequently authorized spending nearly \$1 million on Superdome improvements, including more than \$600,000 for upgrading the dome's electrical feeder

cable system, work that was done in December.

"As discussed in previous board meetings, this enhancement is necessary to maintain both the Superdome and the New Orleans Arena as top tier facilities, and to ensure that we do not experience any electrical issues during the Super Bowl," said an LSED document dated Dec. 19.

Superdome commission records show a \$513,250 contract to replace feeder cables was awarded to Louisiana-based Allstar Electric. Arthur Westbrook, Allstar's project manager for the job, referred all questions to the management company.

A lawyer for the LSED, Larry Roedel, said a preliminary investigation found the replacement work in December did not appear to have caused Sunday's outage.

And meters showed the 76,000-seat stadium was drawing no more electricity than it does during a typical New Orleans Saints game, according to Doug Thornton, vice president for the Superdome's management company, SMG.

He also ruled out Beyoncé's halftime performance. She brought her own generator.

Officials with the utility and the Superdome were quick to note that an NFL game, the Sugar Bowl and the New Orleans Bowl also were played there in recent weeks.

Both Entergy and SMG said Sunday that an "abnormality" occurred where stadium equipment intersects with an Entergy electric feed, causing a breaker to create the outage. It remained unclear what the abnormality was or why it occurred.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS



### POSITION: HOUSEKEEPING (5)

**Qualification:** Minimum of 3 years of experience and training in hotel & resort operation.  
Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.  
Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.  
Self motivated, able to work under minimum supervision, trustworthiness and good working ethics. Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs. Must be able to work for extended periods as per demand.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Responsible for creating and maintaining a clean and comfortable environment for hotel guests.  
Replace used linens, sanitize bathrooms and set up the rooms according to hotels standards.  
Carry linens, towels, toilets items and cleaning supplies using wheeled carts.  
Empty waste baskets, empty and clean ashtrays and transport other trash and waste to disposal areas. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounges, restrooms, corridors stairways, locker rooms and other work area so that health standards are met.  
Observe precautions required to protect hotel and guest property and report damage, theft and found articles to supervisors.  
Replenish supplies such as drinking glasses, Linens writing supplies and bathroom items.  
Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture, and draperies using vacuum cleaners and shampoos.  
Dust and polish furniture and equipment.  
Keep storage area and carts well-stocked, dean and tidy.  
Disinfect equipment and supplies, using germicides or steam operated sterilizers.

### POSITION: WAITER/WAITRESS (8)

**Qualification:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training in hotel & resort operation.  
Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and function.  
Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.  
Listen to, understand information through spoken words and sentences.  
Speak clearly so others can understand you.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Serve food & beverage to guest, provide courteous professional, efficient and flexible service in order to maximize guest satisfaction.  
Present menus to patrons and answer questions about menu items, making recommendation upon request.  
Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons, and prepare or serve specialty dishes at tables as required.  
Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmission to kitchen staff.  
Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take actions to correct any problems.  
Prepare hot, cold and mixed drinks for patrons and chill bottles of wine.  
Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and collect payment from customers.  
Clean tables or counters after patrons have finished dining.

### POSITION: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT (1)

**Qualification:** Must have a bachelor degree in Accountancy. CPA a plus.  
Minimum of 3 years experience as chief accountant.  
Must be able to work flexible hours.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Report to CFO regarding finances of the company.  
Prepare, examine or analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards.  
Develop, maintain and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs.  
Develop, implement, modify, and document recordkeeping and accounting system, making use of current computer technology.  
Prepare report and schedule for audit.  
Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.  
Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice.

### POSITION: ACCOUNTANT (1)

**Qualification:** Must have a bachelor degree in accounting  
Minimum 5 years experience as accountant.  
Must be able to work flexible hours.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Prepare bi-weekly and monthly payroll and maintain confidentiality and other related records.  
Take charge of accounts payable and accounts receivable.  
Maintain general ledger, accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare adjustment as needed.  
Assists with fixed assets and inventory system and record-keeping.  
Check daily deposit before depositing to the bank.  
Assist the chief accountant in the preparation of weekly, monthly and year end report.

### POSITION: ASSISTANT CHEF WESTERN CUISINE (1)

**Qualification:** Minimum 5 years experience and training.  
Knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves and observe kitchen procedures.  
Reliable, responsible and dependable in fulfilling obligations.  
Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and function.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met.  
Supervise or coordinate activities of cooks or workers engaged in food preparation to ensure timely delivery of patrons order.  
Order or requisition food or other supplies needed to ensure efficient operation.  
Instruct cooks or other workers to check the quality and quantity of received products and in preparation, cooking, garnishing or presentation of food.  
Determining how food should be presented and create decorative food displays.  
Inspect supplies, equipment and food preparation areas to ensure conformance to safe and sanitary food-handling practices and established company standards.

### POSITION: SUPERVISOR, LANDSCAPE (1)

**Qualification:** Must have 7 years of experience and training in the field of Golf Course Industry.  
Must be reliable, responsible and dependable in fulfilling obligations.  
Must be able to work flexible hours.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in landscaping, cultivating lawns, pruning trees and shrubs or grounds keeping activities.  
Establish and enforce operating procedures and work standards that will ensure adequate performance and personnel safety.  
Train workers in tasks such as transplanting or pruning trees or shrubs, finishing cement, using equipment or caring for turf.  
Monitors project activities to ensure that instructions are followed, deadlines are met and schedules are maintained.  
Schedules work for crews, depending on work priorities, crew or equipment availability, or weather condition.  
Inventory supplies of tools, equipment or materials to ensure that sufficient supplies are available and items are in usable condition.  
Confer with other supervisors to coordinate work activities with those of other departments.

### POSITION: MACHINIST (1)

**Qualification:** Must have 5 years of experience and training.  
Must have overall knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.  
Knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout and machining procedures.  
**Duties and responsibilities:** Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments.  
Fabricate, modify or repair mechanical instruments or parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines.  
Calculate dimensions or tolerance, using instruments such as micrometers or vernier calipers.  
Machine parts to specifications, using machine tools, such as lathes, milling machines, shapers or grinders.  
Set up, adjust or operate basic or specialized machine tools used to perform precision machining operations.  
Align and secure holding fixtures, cutting tools, attachments, accessories, or materials onto machines.  
Monitor the feed and speed of machines during the machining process.  
Maintain machine tools in proper operational condition.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road  
May submit resume online at: tmatsunaga@laolaoay.com

Deadline to submit application: February 15, 2013, on or before 5:00pm  
Saipan LauLau Development Inc. dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Front Desk Clerk	SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean Languages. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skill, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Bell Hop	SALARY: Minimum Wage/
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. A valid drivers' license required. Experiences a hotel front desk, bellhop or concierge services preferred. Must have excellent people skill, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Lifeguard (Part-Time & Full Time)	SALARY: Minimum Wage
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Cook (Chinese/Western/Japanese/Korean)	SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training / education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Power Plant Operator /Electrician	SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Formal electrician education or training highly preferred. Formal Training in Mechanical repair / engineering highly preferred.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Landscaper/Pool Attendant	SALARY: Minimum Wage
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in landscaping and Minimum two years experience handling chemicals preferred.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Kids College Attendant	SALARY: Minimum Wage
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. Cheerful and outgoing personality highly preferred.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Cashier	SALARY: Minimum Wage
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have strong accounting and money handling skills.		
OPEN DATE: January 30, 2013	POSITION: Accountant/Supervisor	SALARY: Negotiable
CLOSE DATE: February 8, 2013		
<b>Qualifications:</b> High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in accounting strongly preferred. Minimum two years experience as a supervisory level employee in the field of accounting or business operations highly preferred. A certified public accountant qualification preferred but not required.		

For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 576/266.  
Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

# James, Wade score 63, Heat top Rockets

**MIAMI** (AP)—LeBron James scored 32 points, Dwyane Wade added 31 points and eight assists, and the Miami Heat held off the Houston Rockets 114-108 on Wednesday night.

Shane Battier scored 12, Norris Cole added 10 and Udonis Haslem grabbed 13 rebounds for Miami, which moved to 20-3 at home.

James Harden finished with 36 points and 12 rebounds for Houston, which got a 15-point, 14-rebound night from Omer Asik and 15 more points from Patrick Patterson. Jeremy Lin and Chandler Parsons each scored 13 for the Rockets.

A night after tying an NBA record by connecting on 23 3-pointers, the Rockets finished 9 for 25 from beyond the arc.

Miami played without Chris Bosh, who missed the game with the flu. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said he hoped Bosh would be well enough to play Friday when Miami hosts the Los Angeles Clippers.

## Spurs 104, Timberwolves 94

In Minneapolis, Danny Green hit eight 3-pointers and scored a career-high 28 points to help San Antonio win its 11th straight game.

Tony Parker added 31 points and eight assists and Kawhi Leonard finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who kept right on rolling without injured stars Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili.

Nikola Pekovic had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Derrick Williams added 15 points and 12 boards for the Timberwolves, who added do-it-all forward Andrei Kirilenko (bruised right quadriceps) to a seemingly endless list of injured players.

## Thunder 119, Warriors 98

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points, Russell Westbrook added 22 and Oklahoma City won consecutive games for the first time in nearly three weeks.

Playing on the second night of a back-to-back, the Warriors didn't get settled in Oklahoma City until almost daybreak and it showed in the early going. The Thunder finally put it away with a 16-4 run to start the fourth quarter that featured 10 points from sixth man Kevin Martin.

That allowed coach Scott Brooks to go without Durant or Westbrook in the fourth quarter for the second straight game.

Harrison Barnes and Klay Thompson had 19 points apiece for the Warriors. Golden State played without Andrew Bogut, who is still easing his way back from a left ankle injury, and Jarrett Jack was sidelined by a right shoulder contusion.

## Mavericks 105, Trail Blazers 99

In Dallas, O.J. Mayo scored 28



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade dunks against the Houston Rockets during the first quarter of their NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013, in Miami.

points, Vince Carter hit a critical jumper in the final minute and Dallas gave coach Rick Carlisle his 500th career victory.

Mayo had 20 in the first half and was mostly quiet before getting two important baskets with Portland trying to rally late in the fourth quarter.

Carter put Dallas ahead 99-94 with a jumper just inside the 3-point line with the shot clock winding down.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 10 rebounds a week after he beat the Mavericks at the buzzer in Portland.

## Wizards 106, Knicks 96

In Washington, John Wall had 21 points and nine assists, Trevor Ariza scored 20 points and Washington Wizards broke New York's five-game winning streak.

The Wizards also snapped New York's 10-game winning streak over them.

Wall, playing in front of his college coach, John Calipari, and Hall of Famer Magic Johnson, scored 10 points in the

fourth quarter as Washington took control.

New York never got closer than 97-92 with 2:57 to play and the Wizards pulled away at the end.

Martel Webster added 19 for Washington, which has won just 13 games, but has beaten five of the six NBA division leaders.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 31 points. Amare Stoudemire scored 19 and Raymond Felton had 17.

## Clippers 86, Magic 76

In Orlando, Florida, Eric Bledsoe had 27 points, including 19 in the second half, and Los Angeles used a big third quarter to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Clippers won despite playing without their three top scorers in All-Stars Chris Paul and Blake Griffin, and Jamal Crawford. Paul remains sidelined with a bruised right kneecap and Griffin sat with a strained hamstring. Crawford was out with a sore right shoulder.

Wall, playing in front of his college coach, John Calipari, and Hall of Famer Magic Johnson, scored 10 points in the

Jameer Nelson scored 18 points to lead the Magic and Nikola Vucevic added 15 points and 13 rebounds.

## Celtics 99, Raptors 95

In Toronto, Kevin Garnett scored a season-high 27 points with 10 rebounds, Paul Pierce had 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Boston won its fifth straight game.

Courtney Lee added 15 points, Leandro Barbosa had 14, Avery Bradley 11 and Brandon Bass 10 as the Celtics remained unbeaten since losing guard Rajon Rondo to a season-ending knee injury.

Garnett scored 11 points in the fourth quarter as the Celtics rallied from a 10-point deficit to snap a two-game skid in Toronto. Boston had lost three of its last four in Canada.

The victory also ended a three-game road losing streak for the Celtics, who had dropped 11 of 14 away from home.

Andrea Bargnani returned after missing 26 games with a torn ligament in his right elbow.

## Stern sees HGH testing coming to NBA next year

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—The NBA for the most part has managed to avoid the major performance-enhancing drug scandals that have plagued the NFL and Major League Baseball over the last decade. Commissioner David Stern is hoping to keep it that way.

Stern said on Wednesday that he thinks the NBA is on track to begin testing its players for hu-

man growth hormone, perhaps as early as next season. While the issue of PEDs, and HGH in particular, has not been perceived as a big problem in basketball, Stern said the league and players' union is trying to remain proactive to send a message that they have no place in their game.

"It's not a commitment, not a promise," Stern said on Wednesday before the Minnesota Tim-

berwolves hosted the San Antonio Spurs. "It's an expectation. It might slide a little bit, but I think we're well on our way."

The Associated Press left a message with the players' union seeking comment.

Performance-enhancing drugs have been grabbing headlines repeatedly over the last few weeks, including Lance Armstrong's admis-

bow to score 13 points for Toronto, while DeMar DeRozan also had 13, making 5 of 16 field goal attempts.

## Cavaliers 122, Bobcats 95

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 22 points in just three quarters, rookie Dion Waiters added 19 and Cleveland didn't overlook a team with a worse record than its own.

The Cavaliers were coming off a stunning upset of Oklahoma City, one of the league's best teams. It would have been easy to take the lowly Bobcats (11-37) for granted, but Cleveland came out energized from the start, built a 33-point lead after three quarters and sent Charlotte to its 11th loss in 13 games.

Tristan Thompson scored 17 for the young-and-improving Cavs, who are 8-9 since Jan. 1.

Byron Mullens scored 15 to pace Charlotte. Bobcats leading scorer Kemba Walker, averaging 17.8 points per game, had just five on 2-of-11 shooting.

## Pacers 88, 76ers 69

In Philadelphia, Roy Hibbert had 16 points and 13 rebounds to lead Central Division-leading Indiana to its third victory in three nights.

The Pacers showed no signs of weariness despite being the only team to play back-to-back-to-back games this season.

Paul George, George Hill and David West each scored 15 for the Pacers.

Indiana has won five in a row overall to move a season-best 12 games above .500. The Pacers snapped a three-game road losing streak and won for just the third time in 10 games away from home.

Jrue Holiday had 17 points for the Sixers, who saw their season-best three-game winning streak end.

## Hawks 103, Grizzlies 92

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague had 22 points and a season-high 13 assists, Josh Smith added 19 points and 11 rebounds and Atlanta snapped a two-game skid.

Al Horford added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Hawks.

Zach Randolph scored 20 points and Mike Conley had 17 as the Grizzlies lost their second straight.

Atlanta played without No. 2 center Zaza Pachulia, veteran guard DeShawn Stevenson

and swingman Anthony Morrow, but still held the Grizzlies to 26.3 percent shooting in the third quarter.

Memphis missed its first 13 shots from the field in the third before Randolph hit a 22-footer at the 6:26 mark, but the Grizzlies trailed by 19 and never recovered.

## Nets 93, Pistons 90

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Brook Lopez had 17 points, and Brooklyn won at Detroit for the first time since 2006.

Will Bynum's tying 3-point attempt from the right corner was short in the final seconds.

Joe Johnson scored 16 points for Brooklyn, including two free throws with 8.8 seconds left that made it a three-point game.

Detroit led by 13 in the second quarter, but the Pistons were only ahead 46-40 at half-time, and they were held to 17 points in the fourth quarter. Greg Monroe led Detroit with 23 points.

The Nets had lost 10 in a row to the Pistons on the road.

Brooklyn improved to 18-1 when facing a team under .500.

## Hornets 93, Suns 84

In New Orleans, Greivis Vasquez scored 19 points, Al-Farouq Aminu added 16, and New Orleans snapped a four-game losing streak.

Vasquez, who scored 15 points in the first half, was 8 of 9 from the field and had 12 assists in his 19th double-double of the season.

Ryan Anderson added 14 points and Robin Lopez 11 for the Hornets, who were making a rare appearance in New Orleans Arena. Because of the Super Bowl this past week, the Hornets were playing only their second home game in the past eight and fourth in the past 13.

Marcin Gortat and Jared Dudley each scored 14 points for the Suns, who came in off a win at Memphis on Tuesday night.

## Jazz 100, Bucks 86

In Salt Lake City, Paul Millsap and Al Jefferson each scored 19 points, Enes Kanter had 17 and a career-high five blocks, and Utah dominated inside to earn the victory.

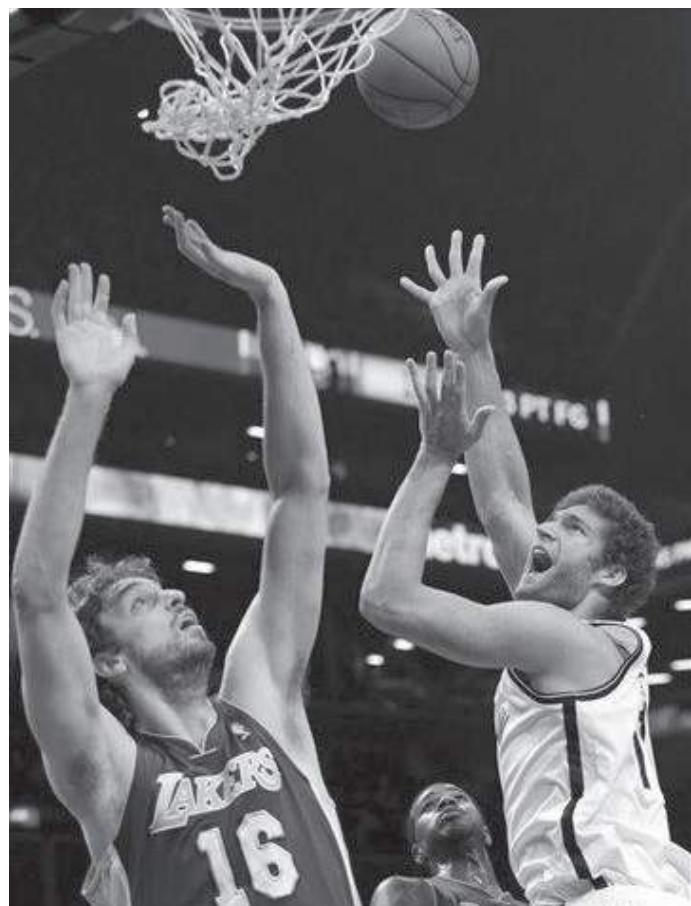
Kanter went 5 of 5 with five rebounds and a block during the second quarter when the Jazz took control after trailing by 12 in the first.

Utah was able to control inside despite being without the NBA's leading shot blocker, Larry Sanders, because of a back injury. The Jazz held a 31-10 advantage on second-chance points and a 56-36 edge on points in the paint.

Jefferson and Derrick Favors led Utah with 11 rebounds apiece, and the Jazz had a 50-37 advantage on the boards.

Brandon Jennings and Ersan Ilyasova led Milwaukee with 17 points apiece.

# Pau Gasol has torn plantar fascia on right foot



Brooklyn Nets' Brook Lopez, right, shoots over Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol during the first half of the NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013 in New York.

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** (AP)—Pau Gasol was diagnosed with a torn plantar fascia in his right foot Wednesday, indefinitely sidelining the 7-foot Spaniard at a key point in the Los Angeles Lakers' belated rally to get in playoff position.

Gasol felt a pop in his foot Tuesday night late in the Lakers' 92-83 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. An MRI in Boston revealed the injury.

The Lakers (23-26) are losing Gasol right when their mostly miserable season is starting to improve with six wins in

seven games, including three straight on their longest road trip of the season. Los Angeles also played the last three games without All-Star center Dwight Howard, who has a torn labrum in his right shoulder, and top backup big man Jordan Hill is out for the season with an injured hip.

"I'm hoping to recover asap so I can be back with the team and keep fighting until the end of the season," Gasol tweeted.

Gasol will fly to Los Angeles

on Thursday to be examined by team physician Steve Lombardo and foot specialist Kenneth Jung. The Lakers announced they will give a timeline for Gasol's return after the examination, but the injury conceivably could keep Gasol out for several weeks or more if he undergoes surgery to repair the damage.

Gasol has been bothered by tendinitis in both knees and fasciitis for at least two months, hindering his progress since shortly after new coach Mike

D'Antoni took over. The four-time All-Star big man also missed five games in January with a concussion, and Gasol largely has been coming off the bench for the Lakers since then.

Gasol is averaging a career-low 13.4 points per game and 8.0 rebounds while playing in just 36 of the Lakers' 49 games.

The Lakers finish their seven-game road trip with three games in four days, starting Thursday in Boston and concluding Sunday in Miami. Rookie center

Robert Sacre is available to D'Antoni, and Howard isn't certain when he'll return from an injury that's troublesome, but likely manageable.

Salary cap-strapped Los Angeles could sign a replacement for Gasol after getting a disabled player's exception last week for Hill, who had season-ending hip surgery. But the pool of available free-agent big men is awfully thin, including Lakers retreads such as Troy Murphy and Brian Cook.

## Stern says Seattle group has filed for relocation

With one more procedural move, the Sacramento Kings took another step toward Seattle.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said Wednesday night that the Seattle group led by Chris Hansen and Steve Ballmer, which recently reached an agreement to purchase the Kings, has formally filed for relocation with the league.

Stern spoke in Minneapolis before the Timberwolves hosted San Antonio. He called the Seattle group "very strong," and said the appropriate committees have been convened to look over the proposed sale of the Kings and the prospective move.

Stern said the relocation proposal calls for the team to play in KeyArena for "two years, possibly three," while a new arena in

Seattle is being built.

"We have had submitted a signed agreement to have the team sold to a very strong group from Seattle," Stern said. "We have received an application to have the team moved from Sacramento to Seattle."

The deadline for teams to file for relocation is March 1. It's been expected that the Hansen/Ballmer group would file to move the team, but Stern's comments were the first time that decision had been verified. The filing for relocation is just another step, but big in the efforts to bring professional basketball back to Seattle for the 2013-14 season.

Hansen's group reached an agreement with the Maloof family last month to buy 65 percent of the franchise, which is valued at

\$525 million, and move the team to Seattle and restore the SuperSonics name. The deal will cost the Hansen group a little more than \$340 million.

The Kings' sale price of \$525 million would surpass the NBA-record \$450 million the Golden State Warriors sold for in 2010.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has been trying to find investors with the financial means to match the sale price, keep the Kings in Sacramento and help on the construction of a new arena in California's capital city.

Johnson responded on Twitter on Wednesday night, saying again that Sacramento "is playing to win."

"We know that with an ownership partner both to Sacramento

and an arena plan already supported by the city and NBA, Sacramento is ready to show what a great one-team market can be, should be, and is," Johnson said in his post.

A day earlier, Johnson said he planned to attend the NBA All-Star game in Houston and lobby anyone he could on the merits of keeping the Kings in Sacramento, but he has yet to reveal any of the large equity investors he's attempting to pull together. Johnson said he hoped to be able to announce them next week.

"My guess is it's likely that the mayor of Sacramento will appear before the board with an alternate plan," Stern said. "And that's why we have a board of governors, to make difficult decisions like this one." (AP)

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# Belau Masters league set for Feb. 17



The Belau Amateur Softball Association is pleased to announce the start of the 2013 Belau Men's Masters Softball League.

The league is tentatively

scheduled to kick off on Feb. 17 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The league is open to the first 12 teams to register and players should be in the 40-and-above age group. Entrance fee is only \$300 and is due on the

start date. No uniforms are required, however proper softball attire is required.

There will be a meeting on Feb. 13 to finalize details, issue waiver forms, and hand out ground rules and schedules. Time and venue for the

meeting will be announced later.

For more information, contact Newman Techur by email at nennn2ur@gmail.com or send text messages at 287-4176. No phone calls please. (PR)

## RGA February qualifier this Sunday



The Refaluwasch Golf Association's February qualifier is scheduled for this

Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. Show time is set for 11am with a noon tee off.

In addition, RGA is open for new membership and encourag-

es any interested players to join.

This month's winner will join January standout Tars Olo-pai and square off for the club champion honors at the end of the season.

For more information, contact Joe Saures at 483-5506 or email cmirga@gmail.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

## BLUE HAUS

*From Page 36*

at halftime, 18-25, as Esdrelon began to heat up.

Proa spread the ball around very well at the start and received output from seven different players in the first period. However, Blue Haus' defense began to make its presence felt in the second quarter.

Blue Haus made its move after the pause and leapfrogged past Proa, 40-37, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Esdrelon led the charge with 9 points that was complemented by a pair of buckets from Tumaquip and Sutton.

Proa's shooters were not finding the mark in the third frame, but the squad remained very much in striking distance thanks to a couple of

late 3-pointers.

When the fourth quarter came, Blue Haus continued to control the pace. They kept it slow just like they wanted and maintained a three possession lead heading into the last two minutes of regulation, but shortly after rain ruined the team's coronation.

The stoppage helped Proa stave off the championship celebration, as Blue Haus was already set to commemorate their second straight title and had things rolling its way.

Action finally picked up Wednesday night with Blue Haus holding a comfortable 8-point lead, 54-46, with just 1:46 left in regulation.

Proa inbounded from mid-court and missed a couple of field goal attempts before turning it over at 1:27.

Soon after the change of

possession, at 1:12, Blue Haus' Tumaquip took a trip to the free throw line on a foul by Proa's Jack Lizama.

He made them both, after which Lizama immediately willed his way to the stripe, at 1:05, and got the first freebie to drop, but Proa missed three good looks from short range after securing the rebound.

Proa's Perry Inos fouled a Blue Haus player with 45 seconds left but valuable time had already ticked away and Proa had merely treaded water and trailed, 48-56.

They waited too long to foul and Blue Haus was happy to swing it around, playing keep away. The time went like a flash after that, leading into few meaningless fouls at the end.

Blue Haus' Esdrelon shined in the final game with a game-

high of 20 points and shared the finals MVP honors with Sutton, whose 9 markers was supported by the 10 points of Tumaquip and 8 from Guiab. Lorio Pagarao led Proa with a dismal 9 markers.

Other awardees included most steals winner Tumaquip, best in rebounds Berline, and the league's scoring machine Talania—all of Blue Haus. Best in assists went to KB ABCD/II Market's Bernard Aquino, best defensive player was KFC/Taco Bell's John Joyner, and Proa's Pagarao was selected as regular season MVP.

Notably, third place went to Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell with the team's coach Ambet Omampo accepting the accolade on behalf of the team.

The third place consolation game never took place and

KFC/Taco Bell received the nod for dressing five players last Feb. 1.

Confirmation of the game was on and off in the days leading into game time and OCM Corp. apparently had players present on Friday, but left before organizers called them to the floor.

KFC/Taco Bell fan Laura Martinez also won the darling of the crowd prize, while

OCM took home the sportsmanship trophy.

**Blue Haus 60** – Esdrelon 20, Tumaquip 10, Sutton 9, Guiab 8, Barbo 4, Talania 4, Galarse 3, Muleta 2.

**Lions Club/NMC Proa 50** – Pagarao 9, Devero 8, Lizama 7, Yabut 6, Barcinas 5, Inos 5, Ogmuro 5, Sablan 3, Libuw 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 6-17, 18-25, 40-37, 60-50.

## COCONUT

*From Page 36*

Mikayla Lopez, Alina Ishikawa, Melody Johnson, and Negahr Rastguyi.

Dylan Ackerman leads the boys U15 bracket, which also includes newcomer Seok Jun Yun, Colin Ramsey, Luther Lizama, Moris Villanueva, and Michael Ren. The girls U15 also has a new player in Zena Demapan, who will play Heras in her debut. Rounding out the field are top seed Carol Lee, Hana Nelson, Liza Atalig, Emily Jones, and Adele Hudkins.

The boys U12 has the most entries in singles with 12 and four of them—Goodwin, Robbie Schorr, Tudela and, Joshua Abragan—got byes in the first round. Others on the list are A.J. Hudkins, Kevin Kim, Tony Atalig, Jeffrey Seo, Mondo Taniguchi, Haruya Eda, Ken Song, and Michael Jones.

The girls U12 has 10 players led by Julia Ishikawa. Joining Ishikawa at the top half of the draw are Asia Raulerson, Ruth Park, Coume Kaga, and Tan, while Mimi Sakano is at the bottom half of the bracket along with Grace Choi, Conatsu Kaga, Malika Miyawak, and Catherine Atalig.

For the boys U10, six players will battle for the championship. The list includes Aditya Rai, Sean Lee, Eugene Park, Gang Min Kim, Jamin Elliot, and Kintaro Miyawaki. The girls U10 singles will be a four-player fight among Jireh Warren, Maria Gregore, Ellie Epley, and Tuttle.

## KANOA

*From Page 36*

Kanoa FC president Merlie Tolentino said they decided to tap the talents from WSR, as the school is one of the biggest (in terms of population) in the CNMI and focusing their program in school is one of the most effective ways to recruit

players for the new club. However, Tolentino said non-WSR students are very much welcome to join the club, as they want to have as many players as they could.

Kanoa started recruiting players in December and has been training over 60 WSR students. These students are then divided into four age group teams—U6, U8, U10, and 12—for the NMI-

FA spring league.

"The children are excited for the games and we're pleased that many have signed up to play for Kanoa FC. Right now our focus is on strengthening our youth program through active recruitment of players," Tolentino said.

She added that the club also has a men's team and is looking forward to forming a women's squad in the near future.

Joining Tolentino on the Kanoa FC board are vice president Shirley Kim, general secretary Cristy Villaflor and her assistant Andrew Galvez, treasurer Lani Santos, and technical director Raphael Zapanta. The club also has a pool of young coaches in Mikky Vargas, Jeralyn Castillo, Irish Pagarao, Jhaneka Atalig, Mark Mora, and Galvez.

game, teaming up for 18 of the squad's 25 second quarter output and slicing Susupe's lead to five at the break, 35-40.

Toto Banatasa and J.R. Cadag paced Susupe in the second half, combining for more than half of the team's total production with their 24 markers. The duo continued to have a good shooting night in the second half, but failed to draw help from their teammates, allowing the Sexy Boys to grab the win in the fourth period. Susupe dropped to a 0-3 slate.

### First Game

**Sexy Boys 74, Susupe 66**

In the curtain raiser, the Sexy Boys also eked out a come-from-behind win to remain undefeated after three games.

The Sexy Boys fell by as much as 12 points in the first half and was still on a tight match after the third canto, 54-all, before pulling off the win with its good free throwing shooting in the end. The Sexy boys scored 5 of its 11 points from the foul line with John Larot making 4 of them and adding a field goal and Dax Tinio contributing two field goals and one charity. Tinio went on to top-score for the Sexy Boys with his 17 points, while Larot and Herbert Maranan chipped in 14 apiece.

Maranan was the only Sexy Boys player to score more than 2 points in the first period where his team faced a 12-22 deficit. The trio then worked together to bring the Sexy Boys back in the

and driving strong to the basket to move Maplas within a basket, 63-65, 57.4 seconds remaining on the clock. The second miscue happened in front of LD Prime's bench with Dennis Morales intercepting Donnel Isip's pass to Chris Esteves. Morales then fed the streaking Dennis Cortez on a fastbreak play to tie the game anew, 65-all, 34 seconds left in the match.

Maplas had an opportunity to grab the lead when LD Prime faltered on its offensive set on the other end, but Morales instead of attacking the basket made a kick-out pass to Josephus Aguilar, who failed to catch the leather. LD Prime regained possession with 20.9 seconds left, but visibly had no planned play in the homestretch, as Isip opted to dribble the time out. Odicata then tried to steal the leather from Isip, who managed to elude his first defender, but not Maplas' help defense, as Morales picked the latter's pocket from the left sideline.

Morales went on to lead a fastbreak play and again issued a pass to Aguilar, who was beginning for the ball, but faltered on his drive at the middle. Aguilar and Fleming then battled for the rebound, but neither won, as Anicete was at the right place

and right time picking up the loose ball. The Maplas forward still had his back turn against the basket when he plucked the leather and Fleming held on to him, trying to grab the ball.

With the sorry loss, LD Prime fell to a 0-4 record, while Maplas improved to a 2-1 slate.

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**Second Game**

**Maplas La Mani 66–Crotez 23, Odicata 14, R. Usi 6, Morales 6, Aguilar 4, Anicete 3.**

**LD Prime 65 – K. Quemado 14, Isip 11, Fleming 8, Lapuz 8, Esteves 6, Jugos 5, S. Quemado 4, Aldan 4.**

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-25, 28-38, 43-51, 66-65.

### Tribune Sports Scores

#### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	16	.660	—
Brooklyn	29	20	.592	3
Boston	25	23	.521	6 1/2
Philadelphia	21	27	.438	10 1/2
Toronto	17	32	.347	15

##### Southeast Division

Miami	32	14	.696	—
Atlanta	27	21	.563	6
Orlando	14	35	.286	19 1/2
Washington	13	35	.271	20
Charlotte	11	37	.229	22

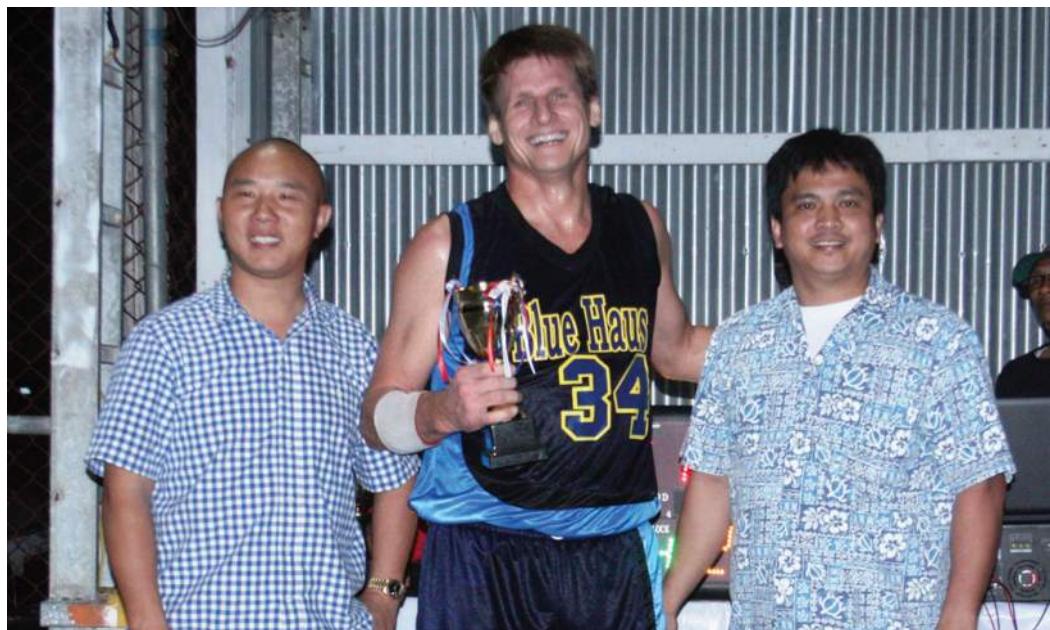
##### Central Division

Indiana	31	19	.620	—
Chicago				

# QQ Car Rental Caging Awards Ceremony



QQ Car Rental 3rd Basketball Cup best in assists winner Bernard Aquino of KB/ABCD II Market, center, is flanked by QQ Car Rental's James Han and tournament director Marlon Sison during the awards ceremony held last Feb. 1 at the Garapan Basketball Court.



Best in rebounds winner Bruce Berline of eventual champion Blue Haus.



Lions Club/Northern Marianas College-Proa's Lorio Pagarrao was selected as the regular season MVP.



From second left, Blue Haus' Brett Sutton and Elmer Esdrelon shared the finals MVP spoils.



Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell's John Joyner was selected as the best defensive player.



Blue Haus' Brendon Talania was hailed as QQ caging's scoring machine.



Dexter Tenorio, center, accepts the team sportsmanship trophy for fourth place OCM Corp.



KFC/Taco Bell fan Laura Martinez was chosen QQ's darling of the crowd.



Best in steals winner Jomar Tumaquip of Blue Haus.



**Mayor defends  
New Orleans  
after Super  
Bowl outage**

PAGE 31

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**James, Wade  
score 63,  
Heat top  
Rockets**

PAGE 32

**36** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Blue Haus sweeps Proa for championship



Blue Haus players and supporters join league organizers in posing for a team photo with the championship trophy during the awards ceremony held after the conclusion of the QQ Car Rental caging finals Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**B**lue Haus completed as sweep after finishing off Lions Club/Northern Marianas College-Proa, 60-50, in Game 2 of the 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup best-of-three final series that was finally completed Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The powerhouse team nipped Proa, 76-75, in Game 1 of the finals played last Jan. 28. Game 2 was first played last Feb. 1 but was halted due to rain with Blue Haus up by 8 points with less than two minutes left in regulation.

After a couple of restarts earlier in the week, the game was finally completed Wednesday night.

The champion team is comprised of Darwin Barbo, Bruce Berline, Melvin Capalad, Noel David, Elmer Esdrelon, Leo Galarse, Junar Guiab, Pando Muleta, Edwin Santos, Brett Sutton, Brendon Talania, Jomar Tumaquip, and player/coach Sam Fernandez, who took home the best coach award after the game.

Proa managed an early 17-6 lead in the opening canto of Game 2 last Friday as Blue Haus started slow, but the latter crept closer

**See BLUE HAUS on Page 34**



## Kanoa FC joins CNMI football family



William S. Reyes Elementary School students pose with NMIFA president Jerry Tan, third left standing, and Kanoa Football Club officials and coaches during the club's visit at the Kingfishers' home recently.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has a new member in the Kanoa Football Club.

Founded in November last year, Kanoa FC officially received an associate membership status from NMIFA recently and will be allowed to compete against the association's five other regular clubs—MP United FC, Shirley's FC, Tan Holdings FC, Matansa FC, and Paire FC.

The newest member of the NMIFA family will have its debut competition this weekend when the 2012 NMIF Youth Spring League kicks off on the various pitches on Saipan. Students from William S. Reyes Elementary School will carry the cudgels for Kanoa FC, making the Kingfishers Field the club's home pitch.

**See KANOA on Page 34**

## Maplas notches second straight close win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Maplas La Mani pulled off another thriller, slipping past LD Prime, 66-65, in the second game in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at

the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gerald Anicete delivered the winning basket for LD Prime, making his first free throw with no time left on the clock. Anicete trooped to the stripe after drawing a last-second foul on LD Prime's Josh Fleming. He made the basket in the paint, but referee Dado

**See MAPLAS on Page 34**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Maplas La Mani's Dennis Cortez pulls up for a running shot against LD Prime's Lester Lapuz during the fourth quarter of their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## Coconut Classic kicks off tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Local tennis action resumes this weekend after a two-month break with the staging of the 2013 Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park.

Northern Mariana Islands

Tennis Association's first event for the year and third for the 2012-2013 season will feature competitions in the boys and girls U10, U12, U15, and U18 age groups, men's open singles, and the unique mixed-up doubles.

The mixed-up doubles, which pairs a junior to adult player or

**See COCONUT on Page 34**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Vincent Tudela makes a return, while his fellow junior tennis players look on and wait for their turns during a training session with coach Jeff Race yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court. Tudela and company will play this weekend in the Coconut Tennis Classic.